

The Leader.

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, COMMERCIAL AND FAMILY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER,
AND
RECORD OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES, BANKS, RAILWAYS, MINES, SHIPPING, &c.

VOL. X. No. 469.]

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1859.

PRICE (UNSTAMPED) FIVEPENCE.
(Stamped) Sixpence.

IMPERIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,

1, OLD BROAD STREET, LONDON.—Instituted 1820.

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SECURITY.—The assured are protected by a guarantee fund of upwards of a million and a half sterling from the liabilities attaching to mutual assurance.

PROFITS.—Four-fifths, or eighty per cent. of the profits are assigned to Policies every fifth year. The assured are entitled to participate after payment of one premium.

CLAIMS.—The Company has disbursed in payment of claims and additions upwards of £1,500,000.

Proposals for insurances may be made at the Chief Office, as above; at the Branch Office, 16, Pall-mall, London; or to any of the agents throughout the Kingdom.

SAMUEL INGALL, Actuary.

BONUS DIVISION.

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CORNHILL, AND CHARING CROSS, LONDON.
ESTABLISHED 1803.

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The following are examples of the Profits accruing on Globe Participating Life Policies under the BONUS declared as at 31st December, 1858:—

AGE of Date of Policy.	Original Sum Insured.	Original Annual Premium.	Complete Years in force.	Bonus applied—	
				By Addition to Policy.	By payment in CASH.
£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
25	1,000	21 9 2	6	72	27 17
35	1,000	28 2 6	6	73	32 15
40	1,000	32 15 0	6	72	35 7
50	1,000	45 12 6	6	72	42 9

Policies of One to Five Complete Years Participate in Proportion.

The above Profits are equivalent—If added to the Policy to a Reversionary Sum at death equal to One Pound Four Shillings per Cent. per Annum on the Sum Insured for each of the completed years of the Policy:—Or, if taken as an Immediate Cash Payment, it is, at most ages, considerably more than One Year's Premium.

The Bonus Periods are FIVE Years, and the Rates of Life Premiums, whether With or Without Profits, very economical.

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ALLIANCE BRITISH AND FOREIGN LIFE AND FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

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THE RECEIPTS for the RENEWAL PREMIUMS due at LADY-DAY are ready for Delivery in Town, and at the several Agencies of the Company.

FRANCIS A. ENGELBACH,
Actuary and Secretary.

THE ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE.

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ESTABLISHED 1841.

MEDICAL, INVALID, AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY,

25, PALL MALL, LONDON.
Empowered by Special Act of Parliament.

At the SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING, held on the 25th November, 1858, it was shown that on the 30th June last—

The Number of Policies in force was 6,083
The Amount Insured was £2,551,136 6s. 6d.
The Annual Income was nearly £120,000
The new policies issued during the last 5 years are as follows:—

5,411 Policies for £2,500,000, yielding £110,024 in Premiums, showing an average yearly amount of new business of more than **HALF A MILLION STERLING.**

The Society has paid claims on 1,092 Policies, assuring £426,044 since its establishment in 1841.

Assurances are effected at home or abroad on healthy lives at as moderate rates as the most recent data will allow.

INDIA.—Officers in the Army and civilians proceeding to India may insure their lives on the most favourable terms, and every possible facility is afforded for the transaction of business in India.

INVALID LIVES assured on scientifically constructed tables based on extensive data, and a reduction in the premium is made when the causes for an increased rate of premium have ceased.

Policies issued free of stamp duty and every charge but the premiums.
In the event of death during the days of grace, the risk binding on the Society if premium paid before the days of grace expire.
Every information may be obtained at the chief office, or on application to any of the Society's agents.

C. DOUGLAS SINGER, Secretary.

THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT, CASH ACCOUNT and BALANCE SHEET, to 31st December last, as laid before the Members of THE

MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY,

at the General Meeting on Wednesday, 16th February, 1859, is now printed, and may be had on a written or personal application at the Society's Office, 38, King-street, Cheapside, E.C. To the Report and Accounts is appended a list of Bounties paid on the Claims of the year 1858.

CHARLES INGALL, Actuary.
THE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICES,
38, King-street, Cheapside, London, E.C.

UNITED KINGDOM LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

No. 8, WATERLOO PLACE, PALL MALL,
LONDON, S.W.

THE Funds or Property of the Company, as at 31st December, 1857, amounted to £317,801 invested in Government or other securities.

Annual Income upwards of 111,000l. from premiums alone.
CHAIRMAN—The Hon. FRANCIS SCOTT, M.P.
DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN—CHARLES BIRWICK CURTIS, Esq.

INVALID LIVES.—Persons not in sound health may have their lives insured at equitable rates.

ACCOMMODATION IN PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS.—Only one-half of the Annual Premium, when the assurance is for life, is required to be paid for the first five years, simple interest being charged on the balance. Such arrangement is equivalent to an immediate advance of 50 per cent. upon the Annual Premium, without the borrower having recourse to the unpleasant necessity of procuring a surety, or assigning and thereby parting with his Policy, during the currency of the loan, irrespective of the great attendant expenses in such arrangements.

The above mode of insurance has been found most advantageous when policies have been required to cover monetary transactions, or when incomes applicable for insurance are at present limited, as it only necessitates half the outlay formerly required by other companies before the present system was instituted by this office.

Loans are granted likewise on real and personal securities.

Forms of Proposals and every information afforded on application to the Resident Director.

By Order,
E. LENNOX BOYD, Resident Director.

ESTABLISHED 1837.

BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Empowered by Special Act of Parliament, 4 Vict. Cap. 9.
1, PRINCES-STREET, BANK, LONDON.
Major-General ALEXANDER, Blackheath-park, Chairman.

INCREASING RATES OF PREMIUM, especially adapted to the securing of Loans or Debts.

HALF-CREDIT RATES, whereby half the premium only is payable during the first seven years.

SUM ASSURED PAYABLE AT SIXTY, OR AT DEATH, if occurring previously.

PROVISION DURING MINORITY FOR ORPHANS.

BRITANNIA MUTUAL LIFE ASSOCIATION.

Empowered by Her Majesty's Royal Letters Patent.

PROFITS divided Annually.

Premiums for EVERY THREE MONTHS difference of age.

HALF-CREDIT POLICIES granted on terms unusually favourable; the unpaid half premium being liquidated out of the profits.

For several years past a reduction of THIRTY PER CENT. has been made in the current year's Premiums.

(PROPRIETARY.) Extract from the Half-Credit Rates of Premium.				(MUTUAL.) Extract from Table with Participation in Profits, after Seven Years' Premiums.			
Age.	Half-Prem first seven years.	Whole premium remainder of Life.	Vrs. Mort.	Age.	Annual Premium.	Half Yearly Premium.	Quarterly Premium.
30	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		30	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
35	1 1 9	2 3 6	3	35	2 7 3	1 4 4	9 12 3
40	1 9 2	2 15 4	4	40	3 2 7	1 4 4	9 12 4
45	2 2 6	3 10 4	5	45	4 10 9	1 4 4	9 12 5
50	3 6 9	4 13 4	6	50	6 13 4	1 4 4	9 12 6

ANDREW FRANCIS, Secretary.

BRITISH EMPIRE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

22, NEW BRIDGE STREET, LONDON, E.C.

ABSTRACT OF THE TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT.

During the year 1858, 1,169 Proposals for Assurance were received, amounting to £274,150, from which 981 Policies were issued, assuring £220,200.

Annual Premiums upon the new business of the year, £7,020 19s. 6d.

Annual Income, £58,388.

Policies in force, 3108, assuring £1,460,553.

Accumulated Fund, £151,807 12s.

Deaths during the year, 75; claims arising therefrom, including bonus, £16,200 18s. 6d., being less than that of the preceding year by £646 17s.

Since the commencement of the Company the amount paid to the Widows and other Representatives of deceased Members is £79,142 3s. 6d.

JAMES INGLIS, Secretary.

INSTITUTED IN THE REIGN OF QUEEN ANNE, A.D. 1714.

UNION ASSURANCE SOCIETY, FIRE AND LIFE.

OFFICES—51, Cornhill, and 70, Baker-street, London; and in Bristol, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Dublin, Hamburg, Berlin, and Bern.

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WM. B. LEWIS, Secretary.

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WELLINGTON LOAN AND INVESTMENT ASSOCIATION

(Limited), 3, Chatham-place, Blackfriars, London. Deposits received at 6 per cent. Interest, payable half-yearly.

Loans granted at moderate rates.

Particulars of CHARLES W. ROE, Secretary.

N.B.—Agents required in town and country.

DEPOSIT AND DISCOUNT BANK.

FIVE PER CENT. on sums for fixed periods or at seven days' notice, or Three per Cent. at CALL. The Right Hon. the Earl of DEVON, Chairman.

G. H. LAW, Manager. Offices, 6, Cannon-street West, E.C.

THE WHITTINGTON FREEHOLD ESTATE AND COLLIERY COMPANY

(LIMITED).

Registered pursuant to the Joint-Stock Companies' Acts 1856-7 (by which the liability of Shareholders is limited to their subscriptions). Capital £60,000, in 12,000 shares of £5 each. Deposit on application £1 per share, and £1 on allotment, but no further call will be made until after 12 months, when the remainder will be called, at intervals of not less than six months, as and when required.

DIRECTORS.

John Brown, Esq., Rose-hill, Chesterfield, Director of the Union Bank, Sheffield.
Henry Rangeley, Esq., Unstone Iron Works, Sheffield.
William Tuxford, Esq., 106, Upper Thames-street, London.
F. B. Pierce, Esq., Whittington, Chesterfield.
Robert Simpson, Esq., 4, Charlotte-row, London; Bland Iron Works, Monmouthshire.
William Henry Brook, Esq., Lincoln, director of Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway.
John Stanton, Esq., M.D., Upper George-st., Byranston-sq. Bankers—Messrs. Smith, Payne, and Smith, London; Messrs. Crompton, Newton, and Co., Chesterfield.
Solicitors—Messrs. Tucker, Greville, and Tucker, 28, St. Swithin's-lane; William Clayton, Esq., solicitor, Chesterfield.
Auditors—Messrs. Harding, Pallen, and Co., public accountants, Lotherby, London; Mr. Henry Osborne, Chesterfield Bank.
Brokers—London, Messrs. Scrutton and Son, 81, Old Broad-street; Sheffield, Messrs. P. E. and S. Smith, George-st.; Leeds, Mr. T. E. Plint, Park row; Liverpool, Messrs. Theakstone and Hargreaves, India-buildings; and J. W. S. May, Dale-street; Manchester, Messrs. Johnson and Son, Stock Exchange; Bristol, Mr. John Kempton Thomas.

Secretary.—Mr. H. R. Downman.

This Company has been formed for the purchase of the Freehold Landed Estate of 132 acres, together with the machinery, plant, and the coal, ironstone, and minerals thereunder as also under 110 acres of land adjoining, embracing five seams of first-rate coal, together nearly 900 acres, adapted for house, gas, coke, and manufacturing purposes.

The property is situate in the parish of Whittington, near Chesterfield, on a branch of the Midland Railway, and near the Chesterfield Canal.

The colliery is raising above 750 tons per week, which is contracted for by highly respectable firms, whilst the machinery is capable of raising 1,000 tons per week; and as soon as the lower seams are reached, the outlay for which is provided for in the capital of £60,000, at least 2,000 tons per week, independently of the ironstone, will be raised.

The present returns from land, colliery, and ironstone, after all deductions, will give a net profit of 16 per cent. to the shareholders, and when the workings are extended (within two years), nearly double that profit may be relied on.

By the arrangements for the purchase, 20,000l. remain on mortgage over a period of years, and not more than 2l. will be called up for the first twelve months, and 2l. during the second year, beyond which it is not expected further calls will be made.

Full particulars, together with the valuations and estimates of Messrs. Jeffcock and Walker, Haasehurst, and others, and the calculations of an experienced mineral agent, will appear in the prospectus, which, with forms of application, may be had at the offices of the Company, and the respective solicitors and brokers, to whom applications for shares are to be addressed.

BENT GUARANTEE SOCIETY.

Extract from the Report of the Directors of the Bent Guarantee Society for 1858.

"The very troublesome character of House property is generally admitted, and it is notorious that large amounts of rent are annually lost by the employment of dishonest and inefficient collectors. Now your Directors have much pleasure in informing you that the clients of the Society readily acknowledge the assistance and relief they find in the management of this kind of property through the machinery of the Society, their rates and taxes being duly paid, requisitions for repairs promptly attended to, and, when necessary, the execution superintended, the observance of covenants duly watched and enforced, insurances kept up, &c., while the safety of the sums collected, the promptitude and punctuality with which they are paid over, with the regular and systematic accounts kept for, and rendered to, their clients, are advantages which all appreciate, and which, as they become more generally known, your Directors believe will assuredly win for the Society an increase of public favour and support."

OFFICES—3, CHARLOTTE ROW, MANSION HOUSE, LONDON.

ACCIDENTS ARE OF DAILY OCCURRENCE.

Insurance data show that ONE PERSON in every FIFTY is more or less injured by Accident yearly.

An Annual Payment of £3 secures

A FIXED ALLOWANCE OF £6 PER WEEK

IN THE EVENT OF INJURY, OR

£1,000 IN CASE OF DEATH FROM

ACCIDENTS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,

By a Policy in the

RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY,

Which has already paid in compensation for Accidents £37,000.

Forms of Proposal and Prospectuses may be had at the Company's Offices, and at all the principal Railway Stations, where, also, Railway Accidents alone may be insured against by the Journey or year.

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CAPITAL ONE MILLION.

Willam M. J. VIAN, Secretary.

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NATIONAL TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.

THE COMMITTEE have great pleasure in announcing that JOHN B. GOUGH will deliver an Oration in Exeter Hall on Monday, March 21st. Dr. ELLIS, of Sudbury-park, will preside. Doors open at 7 o'clock; chair taken at 8 o'clock. Tickets for reserved and numbered seats (if taken before 5 o'clock), 2s. 6d.; platform or central seats, 1s.; body of the Hall, 6d. To be had at 337, Strand.

THE NATIONAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

SOME few years back the *New Quarterly Review* called attention to the present system of publishing, and urged the absolute necessity for a thorough reformation. It resolutely exposed the extraneous charges made for Printing, Advertising, and Publishing, showing the utter impossibility of any profit remaining for the author. The article was a mere seven days' wonder, producing no effect whatever on the literary world, which continued to jog on in its usual course, complaining against Publishers in general, without giving any thought to thinking how the evils complained of could be remedied. At last, it was determined upon to establish the NATIONAL PUBLISHING COMPANY for the express purpose of carrying into operation a sweeping measure of Publishing Reform, the provisions of which are contained in the Company's Circular, which will be forwarded on application.

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THE LEADER.

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Review of the Week.

MINISTERS have not much altered their position during the week, and their fate still hangs in the balance. Numerous rumours are in circulation as to the course they will pursue. Early in the week it was rumoured that, at the Cabinet Council of Saturday last, there was a discussion as to the withdrawal of the Reform Bill; but on Thursday evening we had Mr. Disraeli promising to produce his amendment of the obnoxious county voters' clause, and stating generally that, in the event of the bill reaching the Committee state, Government will think itself entitled to go in for a thorough redacting of its measure. "When the Reform Bill is in Committee," he said, "I have no doubt there is scarcely a member of this House who will not propose an amendment, and I have no doubt that many of these amendments will be favourably received by this House, and I hope that the hon. gentlemen will not grudge the same privilege to her Majesty's Government." The drift of this speech would appear to indicate that the precedent of the India Government Bill is to be followed; but such a proceeding is not likely to gain by repetition. In the event of a breakdown, dissolution is understood to form the *dernier ressort* of the ministerial Reform programme. With what hope of gain Ministers can go before the country, in the face of the late public meetings, it is difficult to conceive. But the fact is not the less certain, that retainers have already been given to some of the leading Conservative parliamentary agents, who are preparing for sudden action. The feeling of the country is every day gaining strength against the present measure; and there is not the shadow of a doubt that, even if Lord John Russell's amendment were to have the effect of overthrowing the Ministry, and so of doing away with their bill, their successors must be prepared to make a very much larger concession to the popular demands than any which has yet been offered by the leaders of the "Reform party."

The results of the struggle over the church-rates question show plainly the powerlessness of the present Government. A week ago, a majority of 254 against 171 threw out the Government measure so desperately fought for by Mr. Walpole. On Tuesday morning, at the special sitting of the House, Sir John Trelawny carried the second reading of his total abolition bill by the decisive majority of 242 against 168. And the same results must take place in every case where the Government is unaided by the tolerant assistance of the opposite benches. With regard to the Lord Chancellor's Insolvency Bill there are already signs of danger. On Thursday evening the third reading was carried in the House of Lords by the

narrow majority of five. There is a strong feeling in favour of the more manageable scheme of Lord John Russell; and the Attorney-General could only ask that, after the second reading, on Wednesday last, Lord John's Bill should not be considered in Committee until that day fortnight, by which time the Lord Chancellor's bill would have come before the Lower House.

The Solicitor-General's bill, to facilitate the transfer of land, has been in Committee, and its supporters have had to do battle against opponents representing all those who dread change of any sort. The well-known success of the Irish Encumbered Estates Court goes for nothing with men who think with Mr. Bowyer, whose strongest objection to the present measure is, that the Courts it proposes to establish are "utterly unknown to the jurisprudence of this country." It is quite true that the present bill may not be all that it might be, but it is equally true that some such bill is wanted, and that, as Mr. Walpole remarked, "its advantages overpower any inconvenience that may arise from its operation."

If ingenuity could save the present Ministry, it would, no doubt, feel itself secure. One of the latest evidences of their possession of this faculty, has been given during the week by Lord Derby, who has asked to have the Ionian affairs kept dark, for the odd reason that they are in such a very bad state. Lord Grey had made some movement towards opening up the subject, when Lord Derby wrote him a private note, begging him not to bring on a public discussion. It would involve the necessity of producing a great number of documents, which "would revive the recollection of facts and occurrences which would be better buried in oblivion, and which would reflect censure upon persons not now in a position to answer in their defence." Lord Grey very reasonably dissented from the conclusion arrived at by Lord Derby, but did not feel inclined to take upon himself the responsibility of bringing on a discussion which might be attended with such sinister consequences as those which were foretold by Lord Derby. The Ionian case appears from this to be in a very pretty condition; too bad to be meddled with. The country, it is to be imagined, will be curious, not to say anxious, to know what is to be the upshot of the whole affair. Mr. Gladstone is silent, and agrees that it would make bad worse to talk about the matter. From the outward signs, it is plain that affairs are not mending in Ionian. Sir Henry Storks has given the Ionians a strong taste of his quality; he has prorogued their Parliament for six months. Meanwhile, we learn that he has authorised the formation of a mixed commission to draw up a list of the reforms demanded by the Ionian people.

Doubt still hangs over the question of peace or war, doubts not at all disturbed by the pacific periods of the Imperial writer in the *Moniteur*. According to this writer, France has had no other idea than to find a peaceful solution of the Italian difficulties. "It is impossible," he says, "to show a more sincere desire to unravel peaceably the existing difficulties, and to prevent further complications, which are always the result of want of forethought and decision." The mistrust of

"a part of Germany," he says, "springs from reflections unjust and painful to France." Therefore, the Emperor does not hold the whole of Germany responsible for these manifestations. Germany, he says, has nothing to fear from France.

"Part of Germany" proceeds with its arming, and day by day builds up new positions of defence and offence on the Piedmontese frontier. In the middle of the week a telegraphic communication came from Paris, stating that the Sardinian Government had formally demanded of France the assistance of a complete *corps d'armée*, 75,000 men. This statement, however, has not received official confirmation. Letters from Northern Italy are filled with details of the Austrian war-preparations, and of the enthusiasm with which Italian volunteers are flocking to join the Sardinian standard. One of the latest facts reported is that the Austrians have mined the Bridge of Buffalora, over the Ticino, ready to blow it up whenever it shall be necessary to check the advance of the Piedmontese troops.

In the meantime, the results of Lord Cowley's mission to Vienna are the subject of anxious debate. A report was current, yesterday, that so far from his journey having been fruitless, he had returned from Vienna empowered to make such concessions as would remove all impediments in the way of a peaceful settlement of the Austrian differences with France. If such is really the case, the truth is too important to admit of its being long kept secret.

While this state of doubt remains with regard to the Governments immediately concerned in the present state of complication, the other great European Powers are deciding upon the line of policy they intend to follow. Russia, which had taken no direct share in the dispute, has, it is reported, communicated with the Prussian Government the views of the Government of St. Petersburg. The Emperor of Russia is strongly in favour of the preservation of peace, on the basis of the treaties of 1815, and is ready to join with Prussia and Great Britain in their endeavours to arrange present difficulties in central Europe; he is also strongly of opinion that Austria's special Italian treaties ought to be revised. The weight of Russia's mediation thrown into the peace scale at the present moment would, no doubt, have an important influence on the course of events; but the report needs official confirmation.

Public interest in the Neapolitan exiles has been largely exhibited throughout the week. Some of the party have reached London in advance of their compatriots, and these have received the most marked attention from men of all stations in society. Lord Shaftesbury and Mr. Gladstone were among the earliest to wait upon the exiles at their hotel. Circumstantial accounts have been given of the means by which the destination of the band was changed from New York to Queenstown, Cork; the whole of their proceedings are such as to command respect and admiration. Young Settembrini stands out as the hero of the adventure; and with the modesty of real heroism disclaims the smallest praise. There is little doubt but that, when the whole party are assembled in London, some great public demonstration will mark the British estimation of these brave men, and of the cause for which they have most nobly suffered.

Home Intelligence.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Monday, March 14.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, LORD TRENHAM gave notice that on the motion for the second reading of the Church-rates Relief Bill he would move that it be read a second time that day six months.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH GUARANTEES.

LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY moved for copies of all contracts that had been entered into by the Government with any company or individual for the construction or maintenance of electric telegraphs.—After some explanatory remarks from the Earl of DONOUGHMORE, the returns were ordered.

The Ecclesiastical Courts and Registries (Ireland) Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE NEW CHANCERY COURTS.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR brought in a bill empowering the Court of Chancery to pay 4,000*l.* per annum out of the suitors' fee fund, by way of rental, to the Society of Lincoln's-inn, the latter having agreed, upon such payment, to erect a building to be appropriated for the sittings of the Equity Courts in the neighbourhood of Chancery-lane. After an explanation of the measure, he assured the House that this bill was not antagonistic, but might even facilitate the grand scheme for erecting new law courts on the present site of Carey-street. The bill was read a first time.

Their lordships adjourned at twenty minutes to six o'clock.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, MR. BRADY gave notice that on Friday next he would ask leave to introduce a bill to amend the qualification and registration of parliamentary voters in Ireland.

DOCKYARD EXPENDITURE.

SIR J. PAKINGTON, referring to the statements respecting naval expenditure brought forward by Lord Clarence Paget on Friday night, announced that, in justification of the department, he had thought it necessary to give instructions for the preparation of a return, showing with all possible minuteness of detail the manner in which the money voted on account of the navy had been expended during the last eleven years.

METROPOLITAN DRAINAGE.

Replying to MR. WILLIAMS, MR. TITE gave some explanations respecting the course which the Metropolitan Board of Works had adopted for the construction of a system of main drainage in the metropolis. The works had already been commenced, and it was hoped that they would be brought to completion within a period of four years. The money required for the work, amounting to three millions sterling was to be advanced by the Bank of England at 3 per cent., and it was calculated that a rate of 3*d.* in the pound would suffice to repay principal and interest in thirty years.

TITLE TO LANDED ESTATES BILL.

The House having gone into Committee on the Title to Landed Estates Bill, a prolonged discussion arose, initiated by MR. MALINS, respecting the working machinery and legal effect of the new court which it was proposed to establish, and involving also the principles wherein the privilege of a parliamentary title was to be granted to owners of land. The point chiefly controverted related to the question whether sufficient precautions were taken to secure the rights of possible or future claimants, and avoid the risk of committing injustice by converting a bad title into a good one, and so depriving individuals of their equitable rights. The arguments on this question, which assumed an exclusively technical character, were pursued at much length by MR. BOWYER, MR. HEADLAM, MR. HADFIELD, MR. WALPOLE, MR. DEASY, LORD J. RUSSELL, SIR E. PERRY, and many other members. The SOLICITOR-GENERAL explained and defended the measure, to which all opposition was ultimately withdrawn, and several clauses passed by the committee.

The companion measure, entitled the Registry of Landed Estates Bill, was also considered in committee, and some clauses agreed to.

SUPPLY COMMITTEE.—THE NAVAL ESTIMATES.

The reports of the Committees of Supply and Ways and Means were brought up and agreed to.

On the order for going into a Committee of Supply on the Navy Estimates, MR. W. WILLIAMS moved as an amendment that these estimates should be referred to a select committee. Since the close of the French war 281 millions had been granted for the service of the navy, besides many millions of supplemental votes. This enormous expenditure was, he contended, very inadequately represented by the fleet which had been maintained during the period, or by the strength and general condition of the naval forces now at the disposal of the country. Much more strict investigation than was now instituted, or possible, into the mode in which the money had been spent, was, he thought, essentially necessary, and a committee,

selected by the Speaker, appeared to him the best machinery for that purpose. He noticed particular items, and contended that Lord C. Paget had made out a case for inquiry.—The motion was seconded by SIR H. VERNY.—SIR H. WILLOUGHBY very much concurred with MR. WILLIAMS, but feared that the inquiry would be too extensive unless confined to some salient points. [He recommended an inquiry how the estimates could be better prepared.—MR. LINDSAY opposed the motion. He could not see what object would be gained by referring the estimates to a select committee, which would be taking away the responsibility of the executive.—Colonel SYKES supported the amendment; which was opposed by Admiral WALCOTT.—SIR F. BARING said his objection to the motion was that he did not think it advisable to transfer the consideration of the estimates from the House of Commons to a select committee, or to defer the estimates to the end of the session. As to an inquiry, there should be one. Accusations ought not to be made without the House having the means of knowing whether they were true or not. He referred to experiments made when he was First Lord of the Admiralty, which, though severely ridiculed at the time, had proved highly successful.—After some remarks from MR. BENTINCK, LORD H. VANE, and LORD C. PAGET, SIR J. PAKINGTON opposed the amendment, controverting some of the statements on which it was founded. The Board of Admiralty had themselves instituted a searching inquiry into the expenditure of money in the dockyards, and the results would, he believed, lead to various recommendations calculated to promote the public service, and also to exonerate the Surveyor of the Navy and other dockyard authorities from the charge of mal-administration. He hoped the House would reject the motion, which would be only injurious to that service.—MR. OSBORNE said, after the charges which had been made by an admiral in her Majesty's service, he should not be satisfied without a committee. He disputed Lord Clarence Paget's figures and challenged his facts, and pledged himself to controvert his statements before the committee.—SIR C. NAPIER recommended the withdrawal of the motion.—MR. JACKSON and SIR C. WOOD having briefly spoken, the amendment was negatived without a division.

DESTRUCTION OF THE 26TH NATIVE INFANTRY.

MR. C. GILPIN called attention to the destruction of the 26th Native Infantry at Unjalla, on the 1st of August, 1857, as detailed in a work entitled "The Crisis in the Punjab," by Frederick Cooper, Deputy Commissioner of Unrisur. The hon. member recapitulated the incidents of the transaction, and denounced the conduct of Mr. Cooper, under whose orders the 26th Regiment, numbering 500 sepoys, had, he insisted, been cruelly massacred without trial or necessity.—General THOMPSON expressed indignant reprobation of the atrocity in question, and alluded to some other occurrences in which he said British officers had played the disgraceful part of executioners.—LORD STANLEY said it was impossible to deny that the transaction could not be heard or read of without pain and regret, and the pain was greatly increased by the tone and spirit in which the transaction had been described in the dispatch at the time, and in a book subsequently published. After detailing the circumstances connected with the transaction, he observed that these men were insurgents, who would have joined the rebel army; that, in the critical state of the Punjab at the time, a large force of disarmed sepoys being in the neighbourhood, a severe example was necessary to prevent similar outbreaks, and that these facts should be taken in mitigation or palliation of the transaction. Delhi was not then taken, great alarm and peril prevailed, the sepoys of the regiment had murdered two of their officers, and if they had escaped would beyond doubt have joined the ranks of the insurgents. The superior authorities in India, Lord Canning, Sir John Lawrence, and Mr. Montgomery, had at the time approved of Mr. Cooper's act, as having been justified by necessity. At this distance of time and place it was difficult to judge fairly the conduct of men engaged in a desperate struggle, and he suggested that the most appropriate sentence the House could pronounce on the transactions would be to pass it over in silence.—The suggestion was adopted, and the subject allowed to drop.

The House then went into a Committee of Supply, and passed several votes belonging to the naval estimates amidst a miscellaneous discussion, which chiefly occupied the remainder of the sitting.

The House adjourned at a quarter to one o'clock.

Tuesday, March 15.

THE STADE DUES.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, the Earl of CLARENDON asked Lord Malmesbury, whether the treaty with Hanover relating to the Stade Dues would terminate on the 14th of August next, and whether the correspondence on the subject would be laid before the House.—The Earl of MALMESBURY replied that,

notice having been given on the 14th of August last, the treaty would expire on the same day of August next. Negotiations were still pending on the subject, but if they should prove fruitless he should have no objection to lay the correspondence before the House.

Some other business was then dispatched, and their lordships adjourned.

The HOUSE OF COMMONS had a morning sitting.

CHURCH RATES ABOLITION.

SIR J. TRELAUNY moved the second reading of the Church-rates Abolition Bill.—MR. GRIFFITH moved, as an amendment, a resolution, "That any amendment of the law relating to Church-rates, which should exempt persons contributing to the support of some other place of worship than the parish church from the payment of the rate, at the same time that the existing machinery for the support of the fabric of the Church of England should be continued in operation upon the members of her own communion, is worthy of the consideration of this House." His speech in support of this amendment embraced a great variety of topics, some of them new to the debate upon the question. He was interrupted by loud shouts of "Time," "Question," "Divide," but maintained his ground without flinching; and took from behind him a large bundle of printed papers, which turned out to be reports of societies, and begged to be allowed to read a few extracts. This proposition led to a perfect hurricane of dissent and uproar.—MR. S. ESCOURT recommended MR. GRIFFITH, as he had had an opportunity, for nearly an hour, of stating his views, to withdraw his resolution, which could lead to no substantial result.—At length MR. GRIFFITH, having occupied the House an hour and twenty minutes, and having apparently gone through all he had to say, withdrew his amendment amidst shouts of laughter.

MR. B. HOPE then moved that the bill should be read a second time that day six months. The cry against Church-rates, he said, came from a divided and composite party; the demand for the total abolition of the rates he traced to a political organisation which employed it as a means to an end—the destruction of Church property. He reviewed the objections to the existing system of raising the rates, and suggested remedies, including the exemption of Dissenters, protesting against all schemes which involved spoliation.—The amendment was seconded by MR. DEEDES, who wished, he said, on the one hand, to afford to Nonconformists the relief to which they considered themselves entitled, and, on the other, to secure to Churchmen the power to carry out what they regarded as a salutary mode of maintaining the fabric of the church.—MR. B. OSBORNE supported the bill, contending that the time for compromise was past. The question had been under discussion for twenty years, and many adjustments proposed, but none had proved acceptable, and no course was left for closing the controversy but an absolute abolition of the disputed impost.—MR. S. WORTLEY declared that after much consideration he had arrived at a similar conclusion. He had always contended against the total abolition of Church-rates, and been anxious for a compromise; but he thought that all attempts either at commutation or compromise were now hopeless. The decision upon MR. WALPOLE's bill was a declaration that this fester would yield to no remedy but absolute extinction. We had come to a state of things when the existing law could not be maintained without injury to the Church as well as the community. After much deliberation, he had arrived at the conclusion to vote for the second reading of the bill.—MR. S. HERBERT objected to the bill on the ground that it would perpetrate an injustice upon the Church by abolishing the rates without providing any substitute. Church rates had altered their character immensely within the last few years. Since a majority in the parish could decide whether there should be a church-rate or not, the whole question had changed. The present state of things, in his opinion, would be preferable to that which would be brought about if MR. WALPOLE's bill had passed. He was not, therefore, in a hurry to alter the law. Not all who opposed Church-rates were Dissenters; the rates were resisted from the common antipathy to a tax. The bill proposed to remove an injustice to Dissenters, and its effect certainly would be to relieve Dissenters. But how would Churchmen stand? The real truth was that the Church of England was parochial in the country and congregational in towns. The nearest approach to an equitable adjustment of this question was the proposal of SIR A. ELTON, and he would urge that every place and parish should be allowed to determine for itself, which would put an end to all dissension. Unless some such change was introduced into the bill, he must vote against the second reading.—MR. PACE and LORD J. MANNERS spoke against the second reading of the bill, and MR. GREENWOOD in its favour.—SIR J. TRELAUNY briefly replied, and

the House divided. For the second reading, 242; against, 168-74. The bill was then read a second time.

At four o'clock the sitting was suspended, and when the Speaker again took the chair at six, the House was counted out.

Wednesday, March 16.

In the House of Commons the Speaker took the chair at noon.

The Tramways (Ireland) Bill was committed *pro formâ*.

BANKRUPTCY AND INSOLVENCY BILL.

On the order for the second reading of the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Bill, moved by Lord J. Russell, Mr. BAINEs, expressing the feelings and views of the commercial community in the north of England, said the bill, with the amendments it could receive in the committee, was likely to be an extremely valuable measure in remedying the defects in the Bankruptcy Law. In the district he represented it was proved that under the present system there was a waste of 30 per cent. of the assets of the bankrupt's estate. The bill repealed portions of twenty different Acts in which the existing law was to be found, and reduced this complicated system to a single Act, containing a code of Bankruptcy Law.—The ATTORNEY-GENERAL concurred in much of what had fallen from Mr. Baines, especially as to the necessity and urgency of some great alteration in the Bankruptcy Law. He agreed that the abolition of the distinctions between traders and non-traders and between bankruptcy and insolvency ought to be embodied in any bill that should receive the sanction of the Legislature. As to the consolidation of the Bankruptcy Law, he should have an opportunity hereafter, when the other bill (the Lord Chancellor's) was before the House, of stating his views upon the subject. He had no objection to the second reading of the bill, with the understanding that its further stages should wait until the other bill was received from the Lords.—Mr. VANCE objected to certain clauses of the bill.—Mr. J. FITZGERALD cordially concurred in the principles of the bill, and rejoiced to see in it a long step towards the abolition of arrest for debt, except in cases of fraud.—Mr. CRAWFORD said the opinion of the mercantile community was adverse to the Lord Chancellor's bill, and in favour of the bill before the House.—Mr. COWAN advocated the bill.—Mr. MOFFATT said although there was a strong desire on the part of the mercantile community to adopt much of this bill, the objections to it were so numerous, that he suggested that it should be referred to a select committee.—The bill was supported by Mr. AKROYD, Mr. HEADLAM, and Mr. CROSSLEY.—Lord J. RUSSELL said he had no objection to the proposal of the Attorney-General, that the bill should not be committed until the House was in possession of and had had time to consider the bill expected from the other House. He replied to the objections of Mr. Vance and Mr. Moffatt.—The bill was then read a second time.

REGISTRATION OF COUNTY VOTERS (SCOTLAND).

Sir E. COLEBROOKE moved the second reading of this bill, but he would not ask the House to go into committee on it till there had been full time to consider its provisions.—The LORD ADVOCATE consented to the motion, but observed that if the Reform Bill passed its second reading next week, the Government intended to bring forward a Reform Bill for Scotland before Easter. The bill was read a second time.

LUNATIC POOR (IRELAND) BILL.

On the motion for going into committee on the Government bill for the better guardianship of poor lunatics in Ireland, Colonel GREVILLE moved the usual negative amendment, because, he said, the bill is not in accordance with the recommendations of commissioners appointed to inquire into the subject.—Lord NAAS said the objections had been discussed fully on the second reading of the bill, which was founded upon the recommendations of a commission. He reviewed these recommendations, showing the extent to which they had been adopted in the bill, and stating the reasons for the non-adoption of one of the suggestions of the commissioners.—Mr. J. FITZGERALD could not support Colonel GREVILLE's motion, which would put an end to the bill, being of opinion that there ought to be legislation upon the subject, and he recommended its withdrawal, in order that he might move that the bill be referred to a select committee, to be empowered to introduce a provision that the expenses of maintaining the lunatic poor in Ireland shall be raised by rates levied in the same manner as rates for the relief of the destitute poor under the Irish Poor Relief Acts. He argued at some length in defence of this proposition, and against certain portions of the machinery of the bill.—Colonel GREVILLE withdrew his motion, and Mr. FITZGERALD thereupon moved his amendment.—After considerable discussion, in which the amendment was strongly pressed by Irish members, Lord NAAS reluctantly gave way,

and the bill was ordered to be referred to a select committee without any special instruction.

OATHS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

On the order for going into committee upon the Oaths Act Amendment Bill, Mr. S. ESTCOURT asked for an explicit statement of the real object of the bill.—Mr. BOUVIERIE said its object was to relieve the conscientious scruples of Quakers, by altering the form of affirmation required by a clause of the Act of last year, which had passed *per incuriam*.—Mr. BENTINCK doubted whether the enactment was not an essential one, to remedy an important omission, the words objected to being simply an undertaking to defend her Majesty.—Mr. S. ESTCOURT asked Mr. Gilpin whether the words are not objectionable to him as a Quaker?—Mr. GILPIN said he had not read the bill, but undoubtedly his co-religionists objected to words that might seem to pledge them to the use of arms. The House was satisfied, and the clauses passed.

The children of pent-up towns should be glad to hear that Mr. Slaney's bill for enabling benevolent persons to set apart playgrounds, was read a third time and passed.

The Recreation Grounds Bill was read a third time and passed, and the Saint James Baldersby Marriages Validity Bill was read a second time.

A conversation arose upon a motion by Mr. AYRTON, that the Municipal Elections Bill, the amendments of which in committee stood for consideration, be re-committed.—The object and provisions of the bill were explained by Mr. CROSS, and the motion was withdrawn.—Certain amendments of the bill were agreed to.

The report of the Committee of Supply was brought up and agreed to, and the Mutiny Bill, the Marine Mutiny Bill, and the County Courts Bill were read a third time and passed.

The House adjourned at a quarter past five o'clock.

Thursday, March 17.

DEBTOR AND CREDITOR BILL.

In the House of Lords, on the motion for the third reading of the Debtor and Creditor Bill, Lord CRANWORTH moved an amendment to retrench the clause for restricting the appointment of official assignees in bankruptcy cases. After some discussion, in which the Lord Chancellor, Lord Overstone, the Earl of Donoughmore, and Earl Grey took part, their lordships divided, and the amendment was negatived by a majority of 38 to 23-15. The bill was then read a third time and passed.

The Convict Prisons Bill was read a second time, and the Inclosure Bill passed through committee.

MONTENEGRO.

Lord CLARENDON asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs a question respecting the appointment of two Engineer officers to define the boundaries of Montenegro. He thought it was highly necessary that the House should know what measures had been taken by her Majesty's Government, in connexion with the other four Powers, towards settling this question, and denounced the intrigues of foreign Powers, who by fostering insurrection against Turkey, were destroying the integrity of the Ottoman empire, for which so many sacrifices had been made.—Lord MALMESBURY, in reply, informed the House that it was at the request of Prince Danilo himself that measures had been taken to define the boundary line between Turkey and Montenegro. A commission had been sent out by the five Powers, to draw a boundary line between Bosnia and Montenegro. Their efforts to settle the controversy had, however, not proved altogether successful, owing to the pertinacity of Prince Danilo, and her Majesty's ministers were still endeavouring to contrive a solution for the question without infringing the just claims of the Montenegrins or compromising the integrity of the Turkish empire.—The subject then dropped and their lordships adjourned at seven o'clock.

THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

In the House of Commons, replying to Mr. Labouchere, the COLONIAL SECRETARY declined, upon public considerations, to lay on the table any reports or challenge any discussion, respecting the Ionian Islands question.

THE REFORM BILL.

Mr. HUTT having inquired whether the Government intended to introduce any amendments into their Reform Bill, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated that in committee on the bill many new provisions would no doubt be introduced; among which he hoped that such amendments as her Majesty's ministers wished to propose would enjoy the common privilege of calm and impartial consideration.—Mr. RIDLEY asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he intended to lay upon the table the clauses which he proposed to insert in the Representation of the People Bill, respecting the disfranchisement of those county voters whose qualification was derived from property situated within parliamentary cities and boroughs?—The CHANCELLOR

of the EXCHEQUER replied that in the proposed clauses the rights of all the existing freeholders would be maintained, but the owners of freeholds situated in boroughs would be required to state whether they wished to exercise the privilege of voting at borough or at county elections.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

Mr. GREGORY moved for a select committee to inquire into the organisation of the British Museum.—Lord ELCHO contended it was unnecessary. Ample information on all subjects relating to the establishment, whose present state he admitted to be unsatisfactory, was already in the possession of the House, or could be obtained by the trustees. He suggested that the subject should be referred to the trustees of the Museum, upon whose recommendations the House might hereafter act.—After some remarks from Mr. SLANEY and Mr. M. MILNES, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER remarked that he had last session become convinced that with all the information which the Government already had and might command, further inquiry was unnecessary. But the pressure of public business would prevent them from dealing with the subject this year, and he thought the appointment of a Committee could do no harm and might do good; it would form no obstacle to the Government dealing with the question. He therefore did not oppose the motion.—Lord J. RUSSELL made a few observations, and Mr. GREGORY, after some further discussion, withdrew the motion, for the purpose of reintroducing it in a different form.

REGIMENTAL QUARTERMASTERS.

Sir A. ELTON moved a resolution respecting the pay and rank of quartermasters before and since the Crimean war, but left the subject to the consideration of General Peel.

HOUSEHOLD TROOPS.

Sir J. TRELAUNY moved for a select committee to inquire into the nature and extent of certain privileges enjoyed by her Majesty's household infantry, and mentioned in the report of a commission appointed on the 12th of April, 1858, as "the Privileges of the Guards;" also, to inquire whether such privileges have a tendency to produce dissatisfaction or diminish the efficiency of the army. Describing at much length the condition of service and training and the successive steps of promotion, the hon. baronet maintained that the officers of the Guards were made the objects of a favouritism which operated most injuriously upon other corps in the army.—Some further discussion took place, in which Lord J. RUSSELL, Sir G. C. LEWIS, the HOME SECRETARY, and Mr. AYRTON took part. The motion was withdrawn, on the understanding that it should be renewed in a slightly amended form at a subsequent sitting.—General PEEL said, if the committee were granted, it would be a committee to inquire not into the privileges of the Guards, but into the prerogative of the Crown; the motion must, therefore, be altered to one for an address to the Crown. During the last eighteen years this subject had been investigated thoroughly by no fewer than four Commissions. The privileges of the Guards had been most materially altered by the Warrant of 1854. Sir J. Trelawny had fallen, he said, into mistakes and misapprehensions. The motion was uncalled for; every information upon the subject was before the House.—Lord BURY deprecated the motion, which he feared might revive the old sources of jealousy between the Guards and the Line, which their community in the perils and glories of service in the Crimea had done so much to allay.—The motion was also opposed by Colonel NORTH, Sir W. COBURN, and Sir W. F. WILLIAMS.—After a few words from Mr. CONYNGHAM, who advocated the appointment of a committee, Sir J. TRELAUNY replied, and the House divided—For the motion, 31; against, 135; majority, 104.

Mr. BRADY moved for and obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the laws which regulate the qualification and registration of Parliamentary voters in Ireland.

Mr. HADFIELD moved for leave to bring in a bill to enable serjeants and barristers-at-law, attorneys and solicitors, to practise in the High Court of Admiralty.—The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said it was the intention of the Government to bring in a bill that would accomplish all the objects proposed by Mr. Hadfield. Leave, however, was given to bring in the bill, as well as a bill to amend the law relating to the conveyance of lands for charitable uses.—Mr. SHERIDAN, in moving for leave to bring in a bill to repeal the duty on fire insurances, was defeated by 112 votes to 102.

LAWs OF JERSEY.

Mr. HADFIELD moved an address to the Crown, praying for a commission to inquire into the institutions, laws, and tribunals of Jersey, as also into the state of the prisons and administration of public charities in that island.—Mr. WALPOLE concurred in recommending the inquiry, and the HOME SECRETARY consented to the motion, which was then agreed to.

THE NAVY.

Sir C. NAPIER, in moving for some correspondence between Sir B. Walker and the Admiralty, took occasion to reiterate his censure upon present and past Boards, for allowing the navy to fall into its present state of dilapidation.—Mr. CONNOR denied that the present Board of Admiralty deserved censure.—Mr. T. G. BARRING vindicated the late Board of Admiralty from the charge of neglecting the navy. After some explanations from Lord LOVINE, and a few words from Mr. LINDSAY, Mr. WHITREAD, Mr. HUDSON, and Sir C. WOOD, the House divided:—For the motion, 26; against, 177; majority, 151.

The House went into committee upon the Law of Property and Trustees' Relief Amendment Bill, and the Ecton and Wilton Exchange Bill. The Oaths Act Amendment Bill was read a third time, and passed, and other bills were forwarded a stage.

The House adjourned at twelve o'clock.

GATHERINGS FROM LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

At the Court of Bankruptcy on Tuesday a lengthened hearing was given to an application for certificates by Schlesingers and Purditt, drysalers, of Basinghall-street. The inquiry not having terminated at the rising of the court, an adjournment to the 24th inst. was ordered.

Joseph Sutcliffe, cashier in the service of Messrs. Hill, Wood, and Hughes, Coal Exchange, was placed in the dock at the Mansion House on Tuesday, charged with embezzlement. According to the terms of the accusation the prisoner had been in the habit of leaving cheques for considerable sums unentered in his cash book, and in some instances of altering entries that had been made so as to show much less than the true amount. The total deficiency is not yet ascertained. No defence was offered, and the alderman acceded to the request for a remand.

At the Liverpool police-court, on Monday, Buchanan and Mitchell, the engineers charged with roasting to death the stoker Landon, were again examined. The evidence given on the former occasion was corroborated, and the prisoners were committed to take their trial for manslaughter.

The trial of the poachers concerned in the Bishop Burton murder was brought to a close at the York Assizes on Tuesday. The particulars of this case, in which one of the keepers was killed and two others seriously wounded, have been so recently and frequently stated, that they must be well known. The jury acquitted the prisoners Playforth, McGrath and Stoven; the other four were found guilty. Of these Markham was sentenced to eight years', Franklin and Johnson to five years' each, and Marshall to three years' penal servitude.

Mr. William Newton, the printer and publisher of a weekly newspaper, called the *East London Observer*, appeared on a summons before Mr. D'Eyncourt at Worship-street Police-court, to answer a charge of libel. The charge arises out of the case "Gardner v. Godfrey," tried at Nisi Prius a short time ago; and the alleged libel is contained in certain comments on that trial, said to be defamatory to the character of Dr. Godfrey, the prosecutor in the present instance. The defendant pleaded Not Guilty; and after hearing evidence, the magistrate intimated his intention to send the case for trial to the Central Criminal Court. Bail to the amount of 550*l.* was allowed.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

THE American papers bring us the account of a terrible tragedy at Washington on the 27th ultimo. The parties concerned are not unknown in London. Mr. Sickles filled the post of Secretary of Legation during the mission of Mr. Buchanan to England. His young wife was there with him. Her husband, on returning to New York, succeeded in obtaining the Democratic nomination for Congress from one of the metropolitan districts. Being a personal friend of the President, as well as a cool and ready debater, he easily took a prominent rank in the House. Mr. Philip Burton Key, was the nephew of the Chief Justice of the United States, and himself the Government District Attorney for the Washington district. A criminal connexion between Mrs. Sickles and Mr. Key commenced in April last, and their intimacy appears to have excited some remark in Washington; but the gossip appears to have been fruitless. On the opening of the session this winter the intimacy was renewed more systematically. Mr. Key hired a house where they might meet unsuspected; and thither, when the absence of her husband would permit, the faithless wife, lured out by the signal of a waved handkerchief, would repair. On the 25th ult., while entertaining the President at dinner, Mr. Sickles learned these details from an anonymous correspondent. The next day was spent in investigating the facts, and inquiries proved their truth. The wife was then

accused, and confessed the truth. The unhappy husband, brooding over his wrongs, sat by the window facing the President's-square. Mr. Key just then came out of the club-house on the opposite side of the square, and made the usual signal. The husband saw it, and in a frenzy rushed after him, exclaiming, "Villain, prepare to die!" He then fired a pistol at Key, and a ball grazed the lover. Unarmed, he draws an opera-glass from his coat pocket, and throws it at his assailant. They then close together, and he endeavours to wrench the pistol from the husband's hand. He fails, and the husband, releasing himself, raises his arm again to fire. "Don't kill me!" prays the unarmed man. The merciless finger moves, and the victim falls. Another shot insured the certainty of the work that had been before done. Sickles then saying "Is the—scoundrel dead?" turned away, surrendered himself to the officers of justice, and went to prison a martyr. The affair created great excitement in Washington, and strong sympathy, we read, was manifested for Mr. Sickles, who was in prison, and in a complete state of mental prostration.

At Pillgwenly, in Wales, a labourer named Francis lived unhappily with his wife, and for beating her was summoned before a magistrate. Although she did not appear against him, she left his house, and refused his solicitations to return. On Saturday he went to the house where she was living, and on her repeating the refusal he cut her throat with a razor, causing almost instant death. The blade was tied open so as to prevent its closing when used. From this fact it is naturally inferred that the deed was a premeditated one. On being examined before the magistrates, he confessed the crime and was committed for trial.

The culprit Birkitt, who was sentenced at Nottingham Assizes to be hanged for the murder of William Whatmore at Barnby-in-the-Willows, has been respited during her Majesty's pleasure.

IRELAND.

At the Phoenix Club trials last week, two of the witnesses refused to give evidence, and, all threats failing to induce them to change their resolution, they were ultimately committed for contempt of court. The vast mass of evidence which has been given adds but little to the facts already made known by the preliminary investigations before the magistrates, but some documentary proofs have been put in by the Crown which certainly tend to strengthen the belief that the conspiracy was more deep-rooted than the public could have supposed at the first discovery of the plot. On Monday Baron Greene summed up, and the jury retired to their room. At six o'clock they had not agreed, and his lordship adjourned until nine. At that hour the court was crowded. Counsels on both sides were in attendance. The High Sheriff intimated that the jury wanted another quarter of an hour, which was granted. At the expiration of that time they had not agreed, and Baron Greene adjourned the court until nine o'clock on Tuesday morning. The jury were locked up, but could not agree in their verdict. The trial has been postponed till the 30th of March, and the jury discharged.

A true bill was found by the grand jury of the county of Kilkenny against Martin Hawe, one of the Phoenix Club men. The Crown, however, were not in a position to try the case at the present assizes, and an application was made to admit the prisoner to bail. Baron Richards said he would let the case stand for next assizes.

An inquest has been held upon the body of Edward Dourneen, the old man who was shot dead on Sunday week near the town of Gorey, and a verdict returned to the effect that he came by his death from a gunshot wound inflicted by some person or persons unknown.

At the Cork assizes on Wednesday, the grand jury returned two true bills against the prisoners indicted for treason felony, in connexion with the Phoenix conspiracies. On the meeting of the court, owing to certain circumstances, the trials were postponed till next assizes. The judge refused the application for bail, directing that requisition should be made in the Court of Queen's Bench.

ACCIDENTS.

Two men who were trespassing on the line of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, near Wigan, were caught between two trains. One man was killed on the spot; the other miraculously escaped with a broken arm. The drivers of both trains saw the men, and sounded the steam-whistles, but they were not able to stop in time.

We have accounts of several disastrous shipwrecks on the coast this week. At Shields, on Monday, a fearful gale caused numerous vessels to run for the port, and while crowding in, three of them, the *George*, of North Shields, the *Elizabeth*, of Boston, and the *Sir William Carden*, drifted on to Tynemouth Rocks. The lifeboats were got out, and rockets were fired. An immense concourse of people lined the sea banks, and after most heroic exertions by the coastguardmen and the sailors on shore, the crews of the *Elizabeth* and the *Sir William Carden* were landed, though in a very exhausted state. Neither lifeboats nor rockets were able to reach the crew of the *George*. The master, Mr. Reed, and the crew of four seamen, were drowned under the very eyes of the crowds on the sea banks, aid being impossible.

The gales of last week on the Cumberland coast caused a great deal of mischief. The sloop *Hope*, from Liverpool, struck on Selkirk Rock, and immediately went down, the captain and all hands perishing. She was laden with vitriol. Another vessel, a schooner, was seen to go down near the same place, but farther out at sea; name unknown at present; all hands lost. The *Mary Jane*, of Fleetwood, was driven by the violence of the gale on shore. The vessel being light, and the tide at flood, she ran up on the beach high and dry at Braystones, near Whitehaven. Several vessels have put into Whitehaven, some dismasted, others with loss of sails.

The Board of Trade have ordered an investigation, into the circumstances attending the recent casualty to the Royal Mail steam-packet, *Prince Frederick William*.

From Weymouth we hear that the French brig *Cinq Seurs*, of Bordeaux, was driven on shore near the village of Wyke, on Monday night. The master and one man saved; the rest of the crew (six) drowned and from Jersey a correspondent writes that the cutter *Eclipse* Labey, sailed from Gorey on the 8th inst. for the usual fishing-ground, and is supposed to have been lost on the same day off the Minquiers. There were on board the master and his two brothers, with three others; in all six lives were lost. None of the bodies have been found.

At Maidstone Assizes on Thursday, John Norton and George Herbert, privates in the Royal Marines, were found guilty of robbery, with violence. The prosecutrix keeps a small shop at Frindsbury, near Rochester, into which the prisoners went to buy a loaf, and took the opportunity to knock the poor woman down and rifle her pockets, and also to rob her shop. They were sentenced to penal servitude for 20 years, the judge telling them that if they had done the prosecutrix any material injury he would have left them for execution.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

At Sheerness Dockyard the following screw-steamships will very shortly be ready for sea:—*Hero*, 91; *Edgar*, 91; *Queen*, 116; *Fort*, 51; and numerous gun-boats. The workmen are engaged night and day in pushing them forward. At Woolwich two new screw-steamers, the *Wolverine* and *Bristol*, have been laid down; and at Chatham orders have been received to commence the *Rattlesnake*, 26.

Mr. W. Gosling, of Woolwich, announces that he has succeeded in the invention of an unprecedented piece of ordnance, which he is anxious to submit to any test, with a view to its adoption by the Government.

The *Moniteur de l'Armée* remarks on the Armstrong gun, that, in the Baltic and Crimean campaigns, the English produced the Lancaster gun. On the practice-ground at home it threw to a great distance and with precision; it launched flaming projectiles of terrible effect; but in the field and in an active war it did not realise the advantages which had been promised by the experiments at home. The new cannon, like the Lancaster gun, must be definitively judged on the field of battle.

We learn that five frigates of the French navy are to be sheathed with iron so as to make them shotproof. The contract for one is just concluded.

Mr. Whitworth has written to the newspapers to correct an impression that cannon made by him have failed in practice. He says:—"My experiments have for some time past been mainly directed to the subject of rifled small arms; but, as the system which I have adopted is equally applicable to ordnance of all sizes, I bored and rifled several pieces of cannon, which were supplied to me in the solid by the Government. For the strength of these guns I was in no degree responsible; they were the ordinary pieces made for the smooth-bored cannon used in the service, and proved too weak to bear the strain of firing long rifled projectiles. I hope soon to be enabled to make trial of two guns which, on my own responsibility, I am constructing of the requisite strength, and which, I doubt not, will fully realise the expectations entertained by those who witnessed the first experiments in April, 1856, with the 24-pounder brass howitzer which I bored and rifled. At that time projectiles, varying from two to six diameters in length, having quick rotary motion, were fired with great success."

A large majority of the iron ordnance offered for the inspection of Colonel Willoughby and Mr. Arnold, inspecting officers, who have been engaged for some days in selecting guns for the coast defences in India, have been rejected as unfit for the intended service. The Elswick Works on the Tyne are being further extended, with a view of making Armstrong guns of larger calibre than was at first contemplated.

A letter from some person on board the United States' ship Savannah, off Aspinwall, gives anything but a flattering description of her Majesty's ship Diadem. He says:—"We left at Greytown her Britannic Majesty's steam line-of-battle ship Caesar, 90 guns, and the new steam-frigate Diadem, 30 guns. The latter vessel is an experiment. She proves to be a good failure, being a miserable sea-boat. Having on board her present battery, consisting of 10-inch guns (the largest calibre), she rolls herself gunwales under. Her officers and crew must suffer terribly. She was intended to compete with our magnificent specimens of naval structure—the Washab, Roanoke, Colorado, &c., but in our opinion, fall far from the mark."

THE NEAPOLITAN EXILES.

A COMMITTEE has been formed for the purpose of appealing to the public for funds to assist the Neapolitan exiles. Lord Shaftesbury will be chairman, and the Earl of Zetland, Viscount Palmerston, Lord John Russell, Mr. Gladstone, Sir Benjamin Brodie, the Dean of St. Paul's, Mr. Ellice, Mr. Heath, the Sardinian Consul-General, and several other noblemen and gentlemen have consented to act on it. Offices have been taken at 118, Pall-mall. The Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, M.P., has been requested to act as treasurer, and Mr. Panizzi, of the British Museum, will be honorary secretary. The Lord Mayor, acting on suggestions which have been made to him, has announced his willingness to receive subscriptions, and the Marylebone Vestry have granted the use of their hall for a public meeting. A demonstration at Drury-lane Theatre is also talked of.

At a meeting of the committee of the Reform Club on Friday, it was unanimously resolved to open a subscription for the exiles. Mr. Charles De la Pryme, one of the committee, will act as honorary treasurer.

In reference to the mission of M. Raffaele Settembrini, for the rescue of his father, the *Cork Reporter* says, it was in no way set on foot by the Italian Society in London; he proceeded to Cadiz, in discharge of filial duty. This young man received the greater part of his education in England, and was a student in King's College, London.

The inhabitants of St. Pancras have proved themselves amongst the foremost to express their sympathy for the exiles. On Monday evening a highly respectable meeting of the trading and middle classes of Camden-town was held at the Britannia Tavern, High-street, for the purpose of taking steps to afford them substantial assistance.

Among the names added to the committee we find those of the Marquis Townsend, the Earl of Clarendon, Lord Broughton, the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, the Recorder, Sir Geo. Grey, Right Hon. H. Labouchere, Right Hon. Edw. Horsman, M.P.; the Right Hon. James Stuart Wortley; the Right Hon. R. Vernon Smith; Sir James Duke; Charles Dickson, Esq.; Russell Ellice, Esq., M.P.; Sir James Ferguson, Bart.; Thomas Fairbairn, Esq.; Milne Gaskell, Esq., M.P.; Geo. Carr Glyn, Esq., M.P.; Sir H. Holland, Bart.; Austin H. Layard, Esq.; Joseph Locke, Esq., M.P.; Sir R. Murchison, Bart.; Samuel Morley, Esq.; W. Tite, Esq., M.P.; W. M. Thackeray, Esq.; J. Tollemache, Esq., M.P.; Aspinall Turner, Esq., M.P.; Wilbraham Taylor, Esq.; and many other distinguished men. The subscriptions include the Marquis of Lansdowne, 100*l.*; Earl of Durham, 100*l.*; Earl Fortescue, 25*l.*; Earl of Zetland, 100*l.*; Viscount Palmerston, 100*l.*; Lord John Russell, 20*l.*; Lord Overstone, 100*l.*; Sir Benjamin Hall, Bart., 50*l.*; Sir John Ramsden, Bart., 50*l.*; Right Hon. E. Ellice, M.P., 50*l.*; Hon. E. Kinnaird, M.P., 50*l.*; the Mayor of Cork, 100*l.*; R. Monckton Milnes, Esq., M.P., 25*l.*; J. Benjamin Heath, Esq., M.P., 50*l.*; W. B. Beaumont, Esq., M.P., 50*l.*; Lord Broughton, 50*l.*; Right Hon. R. Vernon Smith, 25*l.*; the Earl of Shaftesbury, 10*l.* 10*s.*; T. B. Horsfall, Esq., M.P., 50*l.*; Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., 25*l.*; A. Panizzi, Esq., 20*l.*

CITY SEWERS.—The commissioners met on Tuesday at Guildhall, when Mr. Haywood, the city engineer, presented his annual report of the works executed by the commissioners during the year 1858. The report was very voluminous; it was ordered to be printed, and a copy to be sent to every member of the court, and of the Court of Common Council. After disposing of the remaining business the commissioners separated.

POLITICAL MEETINGS.

ON Monday evening a public meeting of the inhabitants of Marylebone, convened by the Parliamentary and Financial Reform Association of the borough, was held at the Court House, to consider the Government Reform Bill. The borough members, Sir B. Hall and Mr. Edwin James, addressed the meeting at some length, declaring their intention to offer every opposition in their power to the bill. Several resolutions were carried condemnatory of the bill, and embodying various opinions regarding the degree of extension of the franchise desirable, and other alterations in the representative system.

At the Literary Institution in the Borough-road, on the same evening, the inhabitants of Southwark held a very turbulent meeting, at which resolutions were passed condemning the bill, and going for manhood suffrage and shorter parliaments. Sir Charles Napier and Mr. Locke were present, and both spoke against the latter resolutions, though they approved the first.

A very large meeting was held on Monday night at the Town-hall, Brighton, convened by the Mayor. The meeting was addressed—in addition to several other speakers, who denounced the Government measure as a sham and a Conservative juggler—by Sir George Brooke Pechell, Bart., and W. Coningham, Esq., the borough members; and also by J. G. Dodson, Esq., M.P. A petition against the bill was adopted. At Chatham, on the same day, a meeting passed a resolution calling upon their representative, Sir F. Smith, to vote against the measure; and at Worcester a petition was adopted in favour of the ballot and against the bill generally.

On Tuesday, at the Mechanics' Institution, Southampton-buildings, was held a meeting of workmen to discuss, or rather condemn, the Government measure. Messrs. Duncombe and Cox were expected, but the former stayed away. The manhood suffrage, re-distribution of districts, and the ballot were insisted upon, while Mr. Cox, M.P., asserted that he and a few other Radicals were the only real representatives of the people in Parliament, and that he (Cox) and his friends would take care to obtain for the working men their just rights. Tumultuous applause followed this senatorial declaration. At Woolwich, the same evening, a crowded meeting was held, to take into consideration the provisions of the bill. The chair was occupied by the Rev. J. Carlile, LL.D., and on the platform were Messrs. C. W. Martin and J. Whatman, the members for West Kent; Alderman Salomons, M.P.; P. W. Martin, Esq., M.P., and Mr. W. Angerstein. Condemnatory resolutions were passed as usual, and a petition adopted founded thereon.

Both the Edinburgh and Hereford Town Councils have adopted petitions against the Government measure. At Edinburgh some fanatic moved a resolution for the disfranchisement of all Roman Catholics, but did not find a second.

At the Guildford meeting, Mr. Onslow, M.P., attended to raise his voice against the bill.

A great Reform meeting was held at Nottingham on Tuesday night. Mr. Walter was not present, but he wrote a letter, which was read to the meeting amid shouts of disapproval. He supported the Government bill, and thought that it presented a fair basis for the settlement of the question.

At Manchester, on Tuesday evening, a public meeting, convened by the Lancashire Reformers' Union, was held in the Free Trade Hall, "to support Mr. Bright's measure of parliamentary reform, in opposition to that of Mr. Disraeli." The hall was crowded. George Wilson, Esq., occupied the chair. After resolutions had been passed in favour of the ballot, and an extension of the suffrage in counties not less than such as shall confer the franchise on all occupiers of 10*l.* a year; an extension in boroughs not less than such as shall confer the franchise on all persons rated or liable to be rated to the poor for any tenement or part of a tenement. Mr. Thomas Barnes, of Bolton, moved:—"That this meeting expresses its thanks to John Bright for his great exertions in the cause of reform, and pledges itself to give him its continued support to bring his efforts to a successful issue." The motion was passed unanimously.

At Cambridge a meeting was held at the Town Hall, on Tuesday evening. Mr. Beales proposed a resolution, condemning the bill, and the proposal to give graduates of the university the right to vote for both university and town. Mr. Beales supported his resolution in a speech of some duration, every word of which, however, was lost to the audience, owing to the antagonism to everybody and everything raging in different parts of the room. The first object of the undergraduates was to put down the mayor. The townsmen, some of whom supported the mayor against the undergraduates, and *vice versa* were equally divided, or nearly so. Some faint notion of the "row" that ensued may be conceived, the uproar arriving at such a pitch that the

mayor (Mr. Balls), after several notifications of his intention, declared the meeting dissolved. Neither resolution or amendment was put; the gas was turned down, and the meeting resolved itself into sections, Mr. Wilson (a tailor) commanding the largest number of partisans or attendants. At last Wilson had to be escorted out by the police. The undergraduates proceeded in a body to the residence of the mayor; some hooted, some cheered; some appeared to be disposed to break his worship's windows, but the presence of a strong body of police prevented the accomplishment of the last-named design.

On Wednesday, a crowded and public meeting of the inhabitants of Gravesend was held, for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the merits of the bill. On the platform were Messrs. C. W. Martin, M.P., and J. Whatman, M.P. R. Oakes, Esq., was called to the chair. Mr. Hyde Clarke moved a resolution, to the effect that the bill introduced by the Government into the House of Commons disappoints the just expectations of the country; and, while recognising the claims of Gravesend to be constituted a parliamentary borough, confers on Gravesend, with its 16,000 inhabitants, only the same privilege as that which is retained for thirteen English towns having each less than 5,000 inhabitants. A petition was unanimously adopted in accordance with the foregoing resolution.

Important meetings have been also held at Bolton, Stirling, Chester-le-Street, Huddersfield, Bath, Preston, Accrington, Maryport, Chester, Carlisle, and Darlington, at which petitions against the Government measure have been adopted.

The inhabitants of Liverpool met at the Royal Amphitheatre on Thursday night, to discuss the question of Reform, and to decide upon a petition to Parliament condemnatory of the Reform Bill introduced by the Derby Government. The attendance was numerous, all the leading Liberals of the borough being present. Mr. T. Brocklebank occupied the chair. Resolutions of a strong character were passed against the bill, and a petition adopted. Mr. J. C. Ewart, M.P. for the borough, said that he should give his strongest opposition to Mr. Disraeli's bill. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Ewart. Some Conservatives interrupted the speakers at intervals, but all the resolutions were carried by large majorities.

At Dublin on Thursday, the meeting was a success, the attendance being both influential and numerous. Sir James Power, Bart. presided. A resolution condemnatory of the Government bill, and of its treatment of Ireland, was passed. Resolutions were also adopted in favour of the ballot, a large extension of the franchise, and for the abolition of free-men suffrages.

A public meeting of the citizens of Manchester was held in the Town-hall on Thursday, the Mayor presiding. The hall and approaches were densely crowded. There were probably 1,500 persons present. Neither the members for Manchester were present, which greatly disgusted the assembly. A resolution was carried pledging the meeting to adopt every legal means to oppose the passing of the bill; this was not, however, unanimous. A Whig opposition was attempted, Mr. Entwistle, a banker, being selected as the organ of the unpopular party. But he could only muster some forty supporters.

At Bristol the resolutions did not go far enough, and on the motion of Mr. Handel Cossham, a comprehensive rider was enthusiastically adopted. Mr. Berkeley delivered a witty and effective speech, in which he found it necessary to explain his present relations with the Ballot Society, respecting which some misconceptions had arisen. Mr. Langton, the other member, was, of course, equally on the right side.

At the Bath meeting, Sir Arthur Elton opposed the Government bill, although expressing his agreement with some of its clauses. He advocated the enfranchisement of the working classes; the grouping system as the basis of a redistribution of seats; and the vote by ballot. Mr. Tite also took the anti-Ministerial view.

At Great Yarmouth the Whig members, Captain Young and Mr. Mellor, delivered almost Radical speeches. Meetings have also been held at Salford, Coventry (where Sir J. Paxton strongly advocated the cause of the working classes), Greenock, Reading, and many other places.

On Thursday night a meeting of the Camberwell Radicals was held at the Rosemary-branch tavern. Messrs. Williams, M.P., and Roupell, M.P., were present. Some furious speeches were made, and Messrs. Williams and Roupell were requested to give their determined opposition to the second reading of the Government Reform Bill. At Greenwich, on the same evening, a large meeting of the inhabitants of Blackheath, &c., was attended by Alderman Salomons, M.P., and by Mr. Angerstein, the candidate for the representation of Greenwich, who moved resolutions entirely to the taste of the au-

dience, which was unanimous, against the Government. The three members for West Kent were "unavoidably absent."

Foreign Intelligence.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

The *Moniteur* of Tuesday, published a fresh article stating that part of Germany now presents an appearance both afflicting and astonishing. France has occupied herself with the consideration of the alarming state of affairs in Italy merely to allay it in concert with the allies, and in the interest of European tranquillity. It is impossible to show a more sincere desire to unravel peacefully the existing difficulties, and to prevent further complications, which are always the result of want of foresight and decision. The article proceeds to show that the mistrust of a part of Germany springs from reflections unjust and painful to France, and shows contempt for the independence of her policy. France is praised for her moderation and her foresight in endeavouring to settle the Italian difficulty, and the Germans are blamed for totally misapprehending its intentions. This misapprehension amounts to a contempt for the policy of France. Germany, it is asserted, has nothing to apprehend from France on the score of independence. The French nation is susceptible in regard to its honour, but at the same time moderate in the employment of its strength. If threats will arouse it, it may, nevertheless, be pacified by conciliation. Of this composition, the *Times* Paris correspondent remarks—"One motive for its publication is probably to neutralize the effect of the article of the 5th, which was the work of a different and an inferior hand. If there was any intention of restoring calmness to the public mind, diminishing alarm, re-establishing security, or restoring confidence, I fear much that the labour has been in vain. Among most of the banking and commercial people it is looked upon as nothing less than preliminary to entering on a campaign. By the German Ministers the article is pronounced as well put together, but "perfidious," and intended to exculpate the French Government by trying to make the public believe that it is Germany that menaces France, instead of the Imperial Government menacing Germany. They have no doubt that it will produce a bad effect among the German people. A few look at it in a more favourable light, but they are very few. Meanwhile the return to office of Prince Napoleon seems to be looked upon as certain, even by those who desire it least. It is known now that no coolness of any kind has sprung up between the Emperor and his cousin; and it is supposed in some quarters that the resignation of the Prince was a mere comedy which had been rehearsed and arranged beforehand. If so, his return to power will be the signal for the retreat of some of the Ministry with whom he has been in discord. The war party will thus be decidedly in the ascendant at the Tuilleries.

A report continues to be circulated that Prince Napoleon will shortly replace Prince Jerome as President of the Council of Ministers, or will be constituted Vice-President.

The *Moniteur* contains the appointment of sixteen generals and thirteen colonels. The official journal also states that the squadron of evolution quitted Toulon on the previous day, the 15th of March, for the purpose of practising naval manœuvres.

The Government project for removing the octroi walls to the fortifications continues to excite a very warm opposition among the persons living outside the present barriers. There is not one suburban district, it is said, which does not condemn the measure.

It is stated that despatches have been received from Algeria announcing that unusual excitement prevails among the Arabs, and that a demand is made for the division of infantry which lately arrived in France to be sent back to Africa.

The Emperor, at the recommendation of the Minister of War, has pardoned or mitigated the sentences passed on 750 soldiers tried by court-martial. 426 have been fully pardoned, and the sentence passed on 324 has been mitigated.

There is great talk of the immediate formation of an army of observation near the Alps. It is said the Lyons Railway Company has received orders to be ready to convey 75,000 men to the south. The coincidence of this number with the force said to have been demanded by the King of Sardinia a few days ago, favours the supposition that a French army is to be sent immediately to Piedmont.

PRUSSIA.

The Prince-Regent's Government, in Prussia, has suffered its first defeat in the Prussian House of Lords. The House has refused to leave the surplus of two budgets at the disposal of the Government. It wants it transferred to the public treasury, to be stored up there for future contingencies. This

resolution, which has caused considerable excitement at Berlin, is more of a demonstrative than a practical nature.

GERMANY.

The *Mannheim Journal* states that the Ministers of War of those states which furnish contingents to the 8th corps d'armée of the federal army held a conference last Saturday at the Castle of Bruchsal.

The *Hanover Correspondent* states that the Emperor Napoleon has sent an autograph letter to the King, which is said to contain tranquillising explanations as to the intentions of France; and the *Nuremberg Correspondent* announces that similar communications have been sent by the French Government to various other Governments.

On the 15th instant the Bavarian Chambers unanimously voted an extraordinary credit for military preparations.

From Stuttgart it is reported that the Wurtemberg army will be immediately placed on the war footing.

ROME.

The Pope has announced before the Consistory that he did not claim the fulfilment of the demand for the evacuation of the Papal States. His only intention was to prevent a collision of the two Catholic Empires in his own dominions. The Papal Government is actively engaged in reorganising its army in order to be prepared against the evacuation of the territory by the French and Austrian garrisons. The present strength of the force is about 17,000 men, and it will be raised to 22,000 men by additions to the Swiss legion, and by native levies. A letter from Rome of the 10th, in the *Univers*, says:—"A solemn act of adhesion to the Roman Catholic faith has just taken place here, and caused a certain sensation. It was that of Negoussié, King of Tigre and Semen, in Abyssinia. This sovereign did not appear in person, but sent three of the natives of his states to represent him."

IONIAN ISLANDS.

Sir Henry Storks has prorogued the Ionian Parliament for six months, upon the plea that the ten days on which it has sat have been occupied with useless discussion. Sir Henry may probably make shift without the Parliament altogether.

A despatch, dated Corfu, March 12, says that Sir Henry Storks has instructed a mixed commission to submit to him proposals for administrative reforms.

SPAIN.

The Madrid *Correspondencia Autografa* announces that Mexico has given full satisfaction to Spain, consenting to re-establish the treaties with that Power, by punishing the guilty persons and indemnifying the natives of Spain according to the award made by the mediating Powers.

Mr. Preston, the Minister of the United States, has been received by the Queen. He assured her Majesty of the President's desire to maintain friendly relations with Spain, and that the general wish of the people of the United States was to preserve the friendship at present existing between the States and Spain. The Queen replied in terms flattering both to the United States and its Minister.

PORTUGAL.

The King has accepted the resignation of the ministry. The Duke of Terceira is charged with the formation of a new cabinet. The following are mentioned as the members of the new ministry:—President of the Council and Minister of War, the Duke of Terceira; Minister of Interior, Fontes; Minister of Justice, Ferras; Minister of Finances, Ribeiro; Minister of Public Works, Serpa; Minister of Marine, Ferreira.

The contract with Sir Morton Peto is said to have been abandoned.

AUSTRIA.

There is a great movement of troops in Austria, and some Italian regiments are being removed from Italy to the German provinces of the empire. There is no reason to suppose that disaffection prevails among the men, but the Austrian Government is not inclined to expose them to temptation. On the 8th inst. Count Gyulai went with a very numerous suite of officers from Milan to inspect the new works at Pavia.

"Lombardy," says a person residing at Milan, "is like an immense camp, for it is literally crowded with soldiers." The emigration from Lombardy to Piedmont rapidly increases. It includes all classes and degrees of people. The son of the actual Podesta of Milan, has shook the dust of Austria from his feet, and sought liberty and poverty in Piedmont. Young cadets of noble families have also gone. From Udine, a curate with thirty of his parishioners have sought refuge in Piedmont. Masses of conscripts from Lombardy are passing from Valtellina through the Canton Grisons into Piedmont.

The Austrian authorities have transported all the public treasures, records, and registers to Sondrio, chief town of the Valtellina.

The Austrian troops concentrated in the neighbourhood of Semlin, in order to observe Servia, are

about to leave their present position. The force, consisting of nearly 12,000 men, is ordered to march towards Trieste; and the belief is that it will ultimately be sent to Verona, where the reserves of the army of Italy will be assembled.

Large bodies of troops have recently come to Vienna from the northern and eastern provinces of the empire, and there is reason to believe that another army of 50,000 men will in a few days be on its way to Italy. The Sardinians affect to believe that the Austrians intend to make an attack on them, but that Government will act strictly on the defensive.

TURKEY.

Advices from Constantinople state that in the Principalities preparations are being made to offer resistance in case Prince Couza's election should be cancelled. The English ambassador expressed himself strongly as to the necessity of making concessions to the Roumans.

The Governor of Bosnia writes that he has discovered an extensive conspiracy to bring about a new insurrection, which was on the point of breaking out, and which extended to Montenegro. The Governor demands reinforcements.

The army of observation on the Danube is in a disorganised condition, and desertions, especially among the Redifs, are extremely numerous. The state of the finances is unaltered.

Disorderly bands have been committing plunder in Candia, have insulted the English consul, and demanded his dismissal.

Hussein Pacha, who was lately arrested for issuing counterfeit coin, has been condemned to fifteen years' imprisonment.

The last accounts received from Constantinople announce that the Ottoman Government had sent a military commission into Armenia, under the direction of Selim Pacha, a General of Engineers, to report on the expediency of rebuilding the fortifications of Kars and Erzeroum.

RUSSIA.

It is asserted that Baron Budberg, the Russian ambassador at Berlin, has communicated to the Prussian Minister of Foreign Affairs a despatch from Prince Gortschakoff, in which the latter pronounces himself in a pacific sense, and promises to support Prussia and England in their endeavours to procure a peaceful solution of the pending difficulties. The Russian Cabinet admits the necessity of the maintenance of treaties, but advises a revision of the separate treaties of Austria with the small Italian States.

An imperial decree, dated March 10, prohibits the exportation of horses from Russia and the kingdom of Poland across the European frontiers.

A telegram bearing date St. Petersburg, Thursday, gives intelligence from the Caucasus. On the 19th February General Jeddokimoff with his corps d'armée laid siege to Schamyl's capital. The place is fortified, and the besieged appeared determined to make a stubborn resistance. The tribe of Pshok in Abkhazia, made its submission to the Russians on the 28th January.

SARDINIA.

A letter from Turin says that matters must be now pretty ripe for an outbreak, as M. Cavour has intimated to the French Minister at Turin his intention to serve a formal summons (*une mise en demeure*) on the French Government for aid and assistance, as he considers the measures recently adopted by Austria as equivalent to a declaration of war. M. de Laizer d'Auvergne begged him, before having recourse to this extreme step, to wait until he could communicate with his Government. "The King immediately assembled his council, which General Garibaldi attended, and after it was over, M. de Cavour again saw the French Minister; and it is declared that Victor Emmanuel has formally applied to the French Emperor for his intervention. The reason of the step taken by Victor Emmanuel is the exceedingly menacing attitude of the Austrians. They have 70,000 men massed between Milan, the Ticino, and the Po. Cavalry, artillery, siege trains, materials for bridge-building—everything is prepared for crossing the river, and carrying war into Piedmont. The word of command alone is wanting, and this the telegraph from Vienna might at any moment bring. The Emperor Francis Joseph works every day, it seems, with General Hess for several hours.

The Marquis Cino Capponi, of Florence, the veteran of the Italian Liberals, has subscribed 20,000 livres to the Piedmontese loan. The Marquis Ala Ponzone, after having sent 15,000 muskets for the volunteers, has purchased a field-battery, and made a present of it to the King.

The *Courrier des Alpes*, a Savoyard journal, draws a frightful picture of the state to which the policy of Count Cavour is alleged to have brought Savoy.

Volunteers from Venice are expected to arrive at Genoa by sea. General Cialdini is about to organise a division of volunteers.

NAPLES.

Extraordinary activity prevails in the Neapolitan

arsenals. A levy of 18,000 men has been ordered for the end of May. Altogether, during the year ending at the present time, 36,000 men have been enlisted.

There have been fresh earthquakes in the Abruzzi, and several new craters have recently opened in Mount Vesuvius.

The King has undergone an operation on the thigh, but the fever still continues. The state of the King's health becomes alarming; for a few days he improved, but on Wednesday he became worse. To lessen the pain he has recourse to opiates. In the meantime everything stands still. The hereditary Prince takes no part in affairs. The police exercise the utmost rigour towards all who speak of his illness. A gentleman in the café under the Palazzo Auguri, in the Toledo, ventured to express his regret at the silence of the official journals on the subject. On his way out he was arrested. On the 8th instant a monk, in the ardour of sanctity, left for Bari, to intercede with the Almighty for the King's health.

TUSCANY.

It is now becoming a common practice to take advantage of the assembling of any considerable number of people to disseminate political handbills. The following manifesto of this kind, was widely distributed in the Pergola Theatre, at Florence:—"Who deprives Italy of that most sacred treasure of every nation, independence?—Austria. Who wishes that we should be eternally slaves, even denying us the right to weep?—Austria, Austria, and always Austria! Tuscans! the hour has arrived in which this ancient tyranny will have to pay the penalty of its evil doings, and Italy will be cleared of foreign tyrants. The hour is near when we shall again be a free people and independent nation. With God's help and the sword of a loyal king, right and justice shall triumph. Have courage, then, firmness, and discipline. The hour of redemption will not find us unprepared; and, unhindered by the wretches who would wish to prevent us, we will raise the cry, 'War to Austria! Vive l'Italia!'"

CANADA.

The seat of government question continues to agitate the Canadians. Ottawa is to be the eventual capital—that point is settled; but while Ottawa is getting ready, the Government will leave Toronto, and make a temporary settlement in Quebec. There have been four removals since 1841, costing in the aggregate 427,916*l*. A report is current that the expenditures of Ottawa will be postponed for an indefinite period, and this encourages the people of the Lower Province to hope that Quebec may yet be the permanent capital.

A bill for the protection of squatters has been read a second time and referred to a select committee. There are large tracts of land in Lower Canada owned by non-resident proprietors who have totally neglected their property. Persons have settled on these lands without title, and the object of the bill is to compel the proprietors, whenever they remove the squatters, to pay them for their improvements. It encounters considerable opposition, but its passage is conceded.

AMERICA.

The Africa arrived on Monday at Liverpool, from New York, with intelligence to the 2nd inst. In the United States Senate a test vote strongly in favour of the bill for the acquisition of Cuba having been given, Mr. Slidell had withdrawn the measure for the session, with the intimation that he should bring it up again on the first day of the next session. General Houston delivered his valedictory speech as a senator, his term of service having expired.

The question of the tariff and the proposed re-issue of treasury notes or a new loan remained in a state of uncertainty. Motions providing for a bill reviving the tariff of 1846, and for a re-issue of treasury notes, had both been defeated in the House of Representatives. In the House a colloquy of a personal nature took place between Messrs. Reagan and Bryan, of Texas, which created considerable excitement. The Naval Appropriation Bill was passed, the amendments reducing the navy-yard appropriations from 1,192,000 *dols.* to 130,000 *dols.*, and reducing the appropriation for repairs, armaments, &c., from 3,100,000 *dols.* to 1,900,000 *dols.*, having been concurred in.

The New Mexico Legislature had passed a stringent Act for the protection of slave property, and denying the right of Congress to interfere with it.

The British Consul at New York had notified through the press that he had received official instructions from her Majesty's Government to assist the Neapolitan exiles on their arrival.

President Buchanan, in reply to a call of the House of Representatives for information concerning the African slave trade, says that the instructions given to the commanders of the squadron are such

that seizures are not likely to be made except under circumstances which would at least ensure a certificate of probable cause, if they did not authorise condemnation. The object has been to avoid as far as practicable all vexatious interruptions of lawful commerce.

"The steamboat Princess, from Vicksburg for New Orleans, exploded her boiler, caught fire, and burnt to the water's edge, at Conrad's Point, near Baton Rouge, on the 27th of February. Four hundred passengers were on board of her at the time, 200 of whom are lost and missing. A large number of those on board were ladies, and many were badly scalded and otherwise injured. The boat and cargo are a total loss. The former was one of the finest vessels plying on the river." A Baton Rouge dispatch says:—"The engineer is reported to have said he would reach New Orleans in time, or blow up. The engineer was cut in two."

On the night of the 28th a very destructive fire occurred in Broad-street, Boston; the damage was estimated at 250,000 *dols.*; the "Royal of London" is responsible for 20,000 *dols.*

By the City of Manchester we have New York news of the 4th instant.

Congress was in a state of confusion, as usual when within a day or two of the expiration of the session. As a last resort for securing adequate provision for the wants of the Government, the United States Senate had made an amendment to the General Appropriation Bill, authorising an issue of treasury notes to the extent of twenty millions of dollars. The house would have to concur in this movement. A proposition providing for home valuations upon imports was voted down in the Senate. Mr. Smith O'Brien had visited both Houses of Congress, and was cordially received.

The Postmaster-General, Mr. Brown, was dangerously ill, and his medical advisers feared the worst.

The New York Times states that Mr. Sickles continued to receive numerous calls from friends, and innumerable letters of sympathy from every quarter. He was somewhat more calm, but "looked badly." The papers are filled with details of a morbid and sickly character. We find whole columns of such stuff as this:—"He rose early this morning, smoked a cigar, and got a barber to shave him. Many friends are visiting him to-day. Mr. King, the gaoler, has had a cell fitted up, and whitewashed, and vermin cleared out, to put the prisoner in, where he will remain till his trial comes off. He will be placed in the said cell this evening as soon as it is dry. To-day artists are engaged in taking photographic views of the scene of the tragedy in Madison-place for New York pictorial papers."

A fire had occurred at Memphis, Tennessee, destroying property on Main-street to the value of 150,000 dollars. Five newspaper establishments were burned down.

The following scene had taken place in a Kentucky law court:—An old political feud has existed for some time between Thomas S. Low, of Hawesville, and Cicero Maxwell, of Hartford, Kentucky, the prosecuting attorney for that district. Mr. Low had threatened to cowhide Mr. Maxwell on meeting him. On the 2nd of March, while Mr. Maxwell was addressing the court at Hawesville, he was interrupted by Mr. Low denouncing him in grossly insulting language. Mr. Maxwell and others then fired several shots at Mr. Low, wounding him in the thigh and arm, cutting off his thumb, and riddling his shirt. A general fire with pistols ensued, and John Aldridge, a friend of Mr. Low's, was killed, and a Mr. Miller shot through the thigh. Mr. Low has been committed to gaol for protection from the mob.

WEST INDIES.

HAYTI.

Accounts are to the 5th of February. By a decree of the Senate, all the property of the ex-Emperor, of his wife, and of his daughters, Olive and Celia, had been confiscated to the Government. The property of General d'Elva, Chancellor of the Empire, had also been sequestered. Geffard had dismissed the National Guard. He had declared void all the acts of Soufouque after December 26, the date of the proclamation of the revolution; had issued a proclamation urging the people to moderate their hatred towards the supporters of the late Empire, and an address of thanks to the foreign Consuls for the dignified part they took during the revolution. A permanent committee has been appointed by the Government to devise some substitute for the impost of one-fifth now exacted on coffee.

General Santana, in a message to the Dominican Senate, had requested authority to renew the commercial treaty with England which is about to expire.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

THE advices from Central America concur generally in stating that Sir W. Gore Ouseley had succeeded in making a favourable treaty for England with the Government of Nicaragua, and that a copy of the convention was on its way to London. The Cass-Trissary treaty had been laid on the shelf. President Martinez, in his Message to the Legislature on the 14th of January, refers with proud satisfaction to the presence of Sir W. Gore Ouseley, as a guarantee of close intimacy and new commercial relations with Great Britain.

From San Salvador we hear of the resignation of President Santin and the accession of Guzman.

Letters from Greytown express great alarm at the gradual silting up of the harbour. Already the entrance is only 26 fathoms wide, and 18 feet of water, where only a short time ago the width was double what it now is, and 25 feet of water on the bar. Now only small sized vessels can get inside. The English mail steamers are now obliged to anchor outside among the men-of-war. Hereafter, they will only stop long enough to land and receive the mail, then go to Aspinwall and lie there, instead of stopping at Greytown. Several consultations had been held by the officers of the British squadron on the subject. Her Majesty's ship Valorous had been compelled to leave the harbour, her commander fearing to be effectually blockaded by the bar. The people of Greytown, with characteristic liberality, have given the men-of-war officers permission to survey the harbour and to make such improvements as they might deem proper, but at their own expense. At Puntas Arenas the sea had commenced breaking through, and there was danger of all the buildings and property belonging to Scott and Vanderbilt being washed away.

MEXICO.

On the 22nd February, Miramon was still at Orizaba with 4,000 men, and was collecting forced loans everywhere. He had formed a cabinet, consisting of Larraintzan, Minister of Foreign Relations; Bagaceta, Minister of Finance; and Castillo, Minister of War. There were 4,000 liberal troops at Zucatecas and another body at Morelia. The foreign ministers of the capital had not recognised Miramon as President. The English and French squadrons were in a hostile attitude before Vera Cruz, and favouring Miramon and the church party. They will attack the city from the sea, while Miramon does the same from the land side. Another despatch says:—"The English and French merchants at Vera Cruz have renounced the protection of their own flag, and placed themselves under the American flag. A subsequent despatch states that a force would be landed from the English and French vessels to protect the lives and property of subjects of their respective nations, unless Miramon guaranteed their safety before attacking Vera Cruz."

Later advices from Vera Cruz reiterate the former statement as to the hostile attitude of the British and French fleets towards Juarez. It is reported they have intercepted his reinforcements and otherwise favoured Miramon. The latter threatens to sack the city, in consequence of which the citizens have applied to the British and French commanders for protection, but have been refused. It is not supposed, however, that the fleets will openly participate in the attack.

EGYPT.

At Alexandria a grand ball was given in the rooms of the New Exchange, on the 2nd instant, by the British residents, to the officers of the Euryalus, the United States frigate Macedonia, and the French war steamer Chaptal, besides a large number of the inhabitants, in all about 900 persons. The Viceroy, for whom a separate suite of apartments was prepared, arrived about ten p.m., followed by his brother, Halim Pacha, and two of his ministers. Dancing soon afterwards commenced, being led off by Prince Alfred with Mrs. Thurburn. Many of the fair sex of different nations had the honour of dancing with the young Prince, who appeared in excellent health. He has made two trips into the interior, and visited the Pyramids and other places of interest. The Viceroy has put at the Prince's disposal special trains for his shooting excursions, as also one of the palaces in Cairo, where the Prince resided during his sojourn there; and, furthermore, daily sent on board the Euryalus, in honour of the Prince, according to the Turkish custom, an abundant supply of provisions of all sorts, costing about £200 per diem.

Trade continues dull. Wheat has risen enormously high in consequence of the demand for the Red Sea. The cotton crop this season is about one-third short of the previous one, and of a very inferior quality.

The Calcutta mails met with a great detention on the isthmus, in consequence of part of the line between Suez and Cairo having got blocked up with moving sand during the late gale. One of the engines had to be dug out.

CHINA.

The intelligence by the last mail is to the 29th of January, but the news is very scanty.

Lord Elgin remains at Shanghai, and his future movements are unknown. A congratulatory address has been presented by the commercial community of Shanghai, and replied to by his lordship. At Canton affairs are more peaceful. Since the expedition to Shek-tsing the Braves have given less trouble, and a naval expedition sent to Fatsan was received in a friendly manner by the authorities. A notification has been published threatening the Braves of Canton, and clearly expressing want of confidence with the Government of Peking.

Lord Malmesbury having heard that certain British merchants in China will endeavour improperly to import goods into Japan, has caused instructions to be sent out to Admiral Sir Michael Seymour, to dispatch to Jeddo a ship of adequate force, and to instruct the commander of such ship to inform the Japanese Government that her Majesty's Government are not privy to any British subjects carrying on any illicit trade with Japan, if such should be attempted either before or after the exchange of the ratifications of the treaty; in consequence, H.M. steamer Indeflexible was sent from Hong Kong to Jeddo on the 18th Jan. The Hong Kong correspondent of the *Times* observes:—"It is to be feared that her mission will be productive of harm. We know not whence Lord Malmesbury can have derived information so erroneous. The vessels of all treaty powers which have lately visited Japan have been duly admitted to legal trade, and we believe no complaints have been made by the Japanese Government of the introduction of forbidden goods, or other irregularity."

The Furious and Cruiser ships, that Lord Elgin had to leave behind him up the Yang-tze-Kiang, have returned to Shanghai, having had the advantage of an unexpected rise of the river. It is understood that Sir John Bowring will soon return to England, and that a successor will be appointed to take his place.

JAPAN.

We extract the following from the *North China Herald*:—"From Nagasaki we have dates to the 31st ult. The Japanese of that port now have permission to sell bullocks to foreigners, and they do so at three Mexican dollars ahead; the Governor has also imported a large number of sheep for breeding, from Shanghai, with a view to providing foreigners and shipping with supplies." Further telegrams bring the following news:—"A Danish vessel has been driven away from the coast of Japan, no treaty having been concluded with Denmark. 50,000 men died of cholera in Jeddo during one month."

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—On Monday the Portuguese ambassador had an audience of the Queen to present the insignia of the Order of the Tower and Sword for the Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred. The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone was presented to the Queen at an audience by Sir E. Bulwer Lytton. On Tuesday, her Majesty and the Prince Consort, with the royal children, left Buckingham Palace for Osborne, where they remain in good health, enjoying comparative privacy.

THE PRINCESS FRIDERICK WILLIAM.—Her Royal Highness, accompanied by her infant son, will arrive in this country early in May, on a visit to her Majesty and the Prince Consort.

ELECTION FOR CORONER.—The threatened contest for the coronership of East Middlesex has terminated in the quiet return of Mr. Humphreys—Mr. Ratcliff, Mr. J. J. Dempsey, and Mr. O'Brien, who had been announced as candidates, having retired. At the proceedings yesterday, at the Middlesex Sessions House, Mr. Offer proposed, and Mr. Gaskell seconded, Mr. Humphreys as a fit and proper person for coroner; and no other person appearing as a candidate, he was declared elected. Mr. Humphreys, Mr. O'Brien, and Mr. Dempsey, addressed the electors, after which Mr. Humphreys was duly sworn in as coroner.

THE BISHOPRIC OF GLASGOW.—A mandate has been issued for the election of a Bishop for the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway, rendered vacant by the resignation of the Right Rev. Dr. Fowler. Two candidates have applied, the Rev. James Cecil Wynter, M.A., of St. John's College, Oxford, Rector of Gatton, Surrey, and the very Rev. W. S. Wilson, M.A. the Dean of Ayr.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT, WITH HARD LABOUR.—Mr. Locke King is to move in committee, on the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Bill, an amendment, "That a person be liable to two years' imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a vexatious defence, or for keeping possession of any house or land beyond the time the rent was due, after one month, without the means of payment."

THE JEWEL OF LIBERTY.

There, Paddy, my honey, are the men for your money,
The Exiles for Erin to brag of and boast,
Those noble Italians, no factious rascals,
Who have just set their feet upon Liberty's coast.
They made for the dry land of your happy island,
A refuge to seek from the winds and the waves,
From a tyrant escaping, and then their course shaping
To a land of free men from a nation of slaves.

In them is exemplified what 'tis to be thrampled,
Insulted, degraded, and loaded with chains;
On the limbs of your betters you'll see marks of fetters
Fit to make all the blood of ye boil in your veins.
In the kingdom of Naples, to positive staples
Of iron, set fast in a solid stone wall,
Those patriots were fastened, with rale scourges
chastened
And not bated in nothing but figures at all.

Somelinked to each other their groans had to smother,
And whisper the curses they couldn't restrain;
No hope for to-morrow to lighten their sorrow,
No prospect but Death to release them from pain.
And these are no traitors, nor yet instigators
To riot and bloodshed with daggers and pikes,
They are patriot statesmen—not Ribandmen's mates;
men
Of whom you may go far to meet with the likes.

And they're come to old Erin, that freedom to share in,
Which all Queen Victoria's true subjects enjoy.
What a proud situation, and fortunate nation,
Must yours then be, Paddy, my broth of a boy!
So join we together in extending, like brethren,
A fist to the band who at Bomba may smile,
No tyranny dreading, the soil who are treading
Of Liberty's jewel, the Emerald Isle.—*Punch*.

COMMON COUNCIL.—The Court met on Thursday at Guildhall, the Lord Mayor presiding. A letter was read from the Metropolitan Toll Commissioners asking whether, in the event of the turnpike gates being abolished, a rate should be levied for the repair and maintenance of the roads, when a discussion was raised on the question, but eventually the letter was referred to the Coal, Corn, and Finance Committee. The Chamberlain is to attend the Commission on Friday with information relating to the subject.

PUBLIC HEALTH.—The return of the registrar-general again exhibits a satisfactory view of the health of the metropolis. The deaths last week declined to 1,174, having been 1,215 in the previous week, the former number being 177 less than the average. The number of births was 1,864. Dr. Letheby's report for the city is not so favourable, the number of deaths during the past week having been 63, whereas in the preceding week they were only 48.

ELECTION ITEMS.—In anticipation of a vacancy for the University of Cambridge, several influential members of the University have resolved on presenting a requisition to Mr. Beresford Hope to become a candidate. On Monday Mr. Peter Blackburn, the new Lord of the Treasury, was re-elected member for Stirlingshire. In the event of a dissolution of Parliament Sir Edward Lytton will not come forward as a candidate for Hertfordshire. In all probability, Mr. Abel Smith, will again come forward as the Derbyshire candidate. The Hon. Robert Grosvenor, the son of Lord Ebury, has been mentioned as likely to come forward as the Liberal candidate. Mr. Robert Palmer, who has for very many years represented the county of Berkshire, will not offer himself for re-election in the event of a dissolution. Mr. John Walter, of Bearwood, who has large property in the county, and who at present represents the borough of Nottingham, has been solicited to become a candidate, and seems inclined to yield to the request.—We, *Cheltenham Examiner*, understand that Mr. C. J. Monk, who had been named as one of the Liberal candidates for the representation of Gloucester, intends again to contest the borough of Cricklade.

MILDNESS OF THE WINTER.—The remarkable winter of 1858-9 ought not to pass away unnoticed in regard to its meteorological character, because it happens to have been very interesting in its political disclosures. It may be true of us English that when we have nothing to say we talk of the weather; but it ought not to be true that when we have other things to speak of we neglect the weather, whatever it may be. The effects of the late winter will not pass away with its names and dates; and it is as well to recognise this probability in good time. The nightingale was heard in England on the 18th February. That is a remarkable fact. It has been repeatedly heard since; so the declaration may be believed. Over the greater part of the pasturage of the kingdom the grass has not ceased to be green throughout the winter; and the roses and honeysuckles put out shoots almost as soon as their latest leaves dropped. All the spring flowers of our

gardens welcomed open-eyed the coming in of March. The elm, Lombardy poplar, and thorn have burst their buds at the very beginning of the month, while the willow catkins have overhung the streams as in April. Apricots and peaches were in bloom above a week ago; and in the fruit-growing counties, where the cherries and pears are blossoming already, the growers are in a state of high tension. A touch of frost between night and morning would cost hundreds of pounds each to hundreds of proprietors of orchards. The sheep-farmers and graziers are happier. The lambing has apparently been very favourable; and the prospects of the grass are as fine as can be in those parts of the country which have come in for a share of the prodigious rainfall of the winter. "The oldest inhabitant" of many an agricultural district hardly remembers so mild a season. He must go back more than twenty years for any winter that can bear a comparison with it. "The oldest inhabitant" speaks of it as a great blessing—being old, and therefore thankful to be spared the ills of frost and bitter winds. The health-officers will, on the whole, give a flattering account of the season. If they had to tell of a great mortality caused by a bout of frosty weather in November, before people were ready for it, they will doubtless celebrate, for years to come, the merciful allotment of deaths during the succeeding months, when there was no more frost, except in some few cold spots.—*Daily News*.

EXETER HALL.—A meeting was held on Wednesday, in the lower room, for the purpose of considering the dangerous tendencies of the new Roman Catholic Oath Bill, and to frame petitions to Parliament against it. Mr. John Bingham having been called to the chair, in a brief speech introduced the Rev. Mr. McCarthy to move the first resolution. The rev. gentleman concluded a speech strongly denunciatory of Roman Catholicism and of the new Oaths Bill, by moving a resolution deprecating any change in the present oath. Mr. Harper seconded the resolution. The Rev. Tresham Gregg got up in the body of the hall, for the purpose, as he said, of moving an amendment. A scene of great uproar ensued, Mr. Gregg being regarded as an enemy in the camp.

THE COAL-WHIPPIERS.—On Wednesday night a tea-meeting of coal-whippers took place in the School-rooms, Whitechapel-road, to which that ill-used class of labourers was invited, through the kindness of a few philanthropic gentlemen, among whom was Mr. Samuel Gurney, who contributed 25s. towards the expense of the entertainment. The men mustered to the number of 1,000, and were regaled with a variety of good things. The meeting, presided over by the Rev. Canon Champneys, was held for the purpose of considering and adopting the best and most efficient means to secure the speedy passing of a bill, now before Parliament, for the establishment of a public office, from whence all coal-whippers may be employed, instead of the present public-house and middlemen agency. Sympathy was expressed in letters from Lord Ebury, the Duke of Norfolk, Lord Shaftesbury, the Bishop of Winchester, the Hon. G. Byng, the Lord Mayor, the Bishop of London, the Bishop of Carlisle, the Earl of Ripon, Earl Ducie, the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Lord John Manners, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Mr. H. Pease, and Mr. Joseph Sturge. Lord Kinaird spoke a few words of encouragement to the coal-whippers. He believed in the righteousness of their cause, and held out to them sanguine expectations of ultimate success in their movement. The object of the various speeches made was to point out the present abuses in the coal-whipping system, and to impress upon the trade the necessity of their distinctly undertaking to support the proposed office, and to furnish funds necessary for its establishment.

EARL GREY ON REFORM.—Lord Grey, in a letter which he has addressed to Lord Elcho, shows that his mind has become very unsettled in reference to Parliamentary Reform. He seems to have held a conversation with Lord Elcho on the course that should be taken by Liberal members of the House of Commons, and he now tenders advice which has been written for publication. In this letter Lord Grey says the course which Lord John Russell intends to take in resisting the Government Bill is a highly objectionable one, and he thinks the whole question is getting into a state very dangerous to the country. He does not hesitate to believe that a Liberal opposition to the second reading of the bill will be a factious and party move. He says it is a bad bill, but he would have it amended in committee, and it could be amended, he believes, even to the unfortunate stand-point of Mr. Bright. A change of Ministry would be a great calamity—a general election would be a greater. Were he in Lord Elcho's place, continues the noble earl, he should carefully vote against Lord J. Russell's amendment, even though he "concurred in the principles set forth in that resolution."

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, ART, &c.

LITERARY CHRONICLE OF THE WEEK.

THE question about "The Vestiges," unexpectedly revived after an abatement of some years, excites apparently as much attention and excitement as when it was first mooted. The *Critic* now discloses the grounds upon which the attribution of the authorship to George Combe was based. The authority upon which our contemporary speaks is said to be Professor Owen, albeit his name is not directly mentioned; and the evidence is held to be good enough to warrant the compilers of the British Museum Catalogue in transferring the title of the book from the title "Chambers," with a [?], to that of "Combe, George," also with [?]. Thus stands the evidence, according to the *Critic*:—"When 'The Vestiges' first appeared, he (i.e., the authority referred to) felt satisfied, as well from the style as from internal evidence, that Combe was the author of it. To test this, he made certain corrections of a few misstatements of recollect facts, and caused those corrections to be shown to George Combe, and to him only; but when the second edition appeared, those mistakes, and those only, were found to have been corrected. This was pretty strong inferential evidence; but it so happened that afterwards a long private correspondence took place between this personage and Mr. Combe, arising out of some points mooted in 'The Vestiges,' especially phrenological ones—the former combating Mr. Combe's views, which were entirely in unison with those of the author of 'The Vestiges.' But what is more conclusive than all this is the fact, that during the whole of that correspondence, the person to whom we have referred invariably assumed Mr. Combe to be, and addressed him as, the author of 'The Vestiges;' and this was never denied, or in any way contradicted, by Mr. Combe. From these facts, and from that time forth, it became a settled conviction in his mind that Mr. George Combe was the author of 'The Vestiges'—and we are not surprised at it." This is clear enough proof that George Combe had at least a hand, and a very important hand, in this book. The only question that remains is, whether he "alone did it;" and upon this point a correspondent of the *Newcastle Daily Chronicle*, signing, "A Man in the Streets," offers an ingenious theory—namely, that the book itself offers strong internal evidence of being the work of two, if not three, hands; that passages are interpolated here and there, evidently written by the same pen which, as evidently, exercised an editorial function; that the editorial pen is found in the eloquence of the book; that the authorship was known to Mr. Robert Chambers, Professor Nichol, and a prominent member of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society; and that George Combe, if not the sole author of "The Vestiges," was one of the contributors to its pages. This explanation, if not convincing, has at least the merit of reconciling all conflicting theories.

The debate upon the dispersion or extension of the British Museum must be interesting to all who are concerned for the welfare of that noble national institution. All its friends will be sorry to see the collections dispersed so long as any possibility remains of keeping them together; and why there should be any lack of such a possibility, for at least a hundred years to come, we cannot understand.

M. Panizzi has utilised the large quadrangle in the centre of the building—once nothing but a large back yard—by covering it with a dome nearly as large as St. Peter's, and turning it into the finest reading-room in the world, with book accommodation in the galleries around for a million of volumes. There is no fear, therefore, of any want of further room for the library for some time to come. Thus the only question is with the Natural History department; and we would suggest that this should be accommodated by removing the dwelling-houses of the officers from the great quadrangle in front into one of the neighbouring squares, and throwing open the whole of the ground from the corner

of Charlotte Street, so as to give a handsome side up Bedford Square. This would give the means of nearly trebling the accommodation in the Museum, and would render it the most magnificent building of the kind in the world; and, what is peculiar with us, one that could be well seen. At any rate, as an experiment, the houses at the corner of Great Russell Street might immediately be added to the site to begin with; and they could be had for a comparatively small assessment.

No books of any great importance have appeared during the week; but the Publishers' Circular announces some good ones. Messrs. Chambers have issued the prospectus of what is intended to be their *magnum opus*, a new Encyclopædia, to be called "A Dictionary of Universal Knowledge for the People," on the basis of the latest edition of the German "Conversations Lexicon." It will be comprised in seven volumes, and issued in weekly numbers at three-halfpence. Judging from the specimens we have seen, it will be plentifully illustrated with maps and engravings, and will be one of the greatest achievements in the way of cheap literature yet attempted. Among other announcements may be noted that by Messrs. Bradbury and Evans, of the issue of a series of works printed by the nature-printing process, which these enterprising publishers adopted and improved from the royal printing-office, Berlin. The first issues of this series will be four volumes, on "Sea Weeds," by W. G. Johnstone, containing 220 nature-printed illustrations; two on "British Ferns," by T. Moore, F.L.S., reprinting the letter-press of his well-known work (some time out of print), with 110 new illustrations; and one volume of "British Mosses," by Dr. Lawson, with thirty illustrations. Another important announcement is a "Life of Daniel Defoe," by William Chadwick (J. R. Smith), and an abbreviated and cheaper edition of the "Napoleon Correspondence," to be issued from the Imperial press.

The annual rumpus at the meeting of the Literary Fund has been happily averted this year by a letter addressed by Mr. Charles Dickens to the committee, concerning the purport of an offer to the society; but of what nature, and from whom, was not explained. An early day has been named for Mr. Dickens to communicate with the committee, and disclose the precise nature of this offer, and, in the meantime, a suspension of hostilities has been declared, Mr. Dickens stating that he and his friends would refrain from attending the anniversary meeting for the purpose of making motions adverse to the Committee, as has been their custom for four years past. We hope that this suspension may lead to a permanent peace, and that the offer may be such as to improve the condition of this excellent, but not too thriving, Fund.

Another excellent, and not yet too-thriving fund, is that which was started last year by the reporters and contributors to the daily and periodical press, under the title of the Newspaper Press Fund. After half a year's hard work, the committee have not been able to get together more than ninety-four members—not very much at a guinea a year, certainly; but they are not to blame; and it arises from the usual supineness belonging to all who live by the Press. When the idea was started there was some schism among the promoters as to whether donations and benefactions should be accepted from the general public. Many were inclined to think that it would be degrading to do so,—as if that which every similar institution, whether for the clergy or any other profession does without scruple, would be degrading to the gentlemen of the press. It was also hinted at the time that if the contributions were thrown open no assistance might be expected from Printing-house-square. We are happy to say that these considerations were disregarded, and that the committee wisely determined to accept whatever they could honestly get. How much they have actually got from extraneous sources we are not yet informed; but it will doubtless be disclosed at the first annual meeting of the subscribers, to be held at the

Freemasons' Tavern, on Saturday next; but, in the meantime, we perceive that it is intended to ask the members to separate the contributions of the members from those of the public, and to apply the latter to general purposes, as well as to the purposes of the fund—i.e., to use it in the relief of persons, their widows and orphans, whether members of the association or not. This may be a very proper thing to do when the funds arising from members can be shown to be in a flourishing state; but when the income to be counted upon does not exceed £100 per annum, it seems scarcely wise to apply the monies collected to any other than the direct purposes of the committee.

Out of a great deal of general gossip connected with literary matters, we notice that a new autograph of Shakespeare (particulars not yet disclosed) is spoken of; also that the long-lost MS. of Cotton's poetical works (Charles Cotton of "Walton's Angler") has been discovered to be in the possession of Mr. Jewitt, of Derby. This is good news for bibliophiles, or, as a distinguished club of *literati* now call themselves, "Philobiblians." The "papers say" that Mr. Thackeray has leased his pen to Messrs. Smith and Elder for two years for 4,500*l.* Is this likely? We think not. Why should an author who has so ready a demand for whatever he may choose to write, convey himself to any one? Still, money makes more than the mare to go. It made the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos one of the greatest lords and greatest spendthrifts in the peerage—him that is descended from the great Grenvilles, and has a right to bear "*planta genista*" both in his name and bearings; him also that is not dead, though the papers said he was, a fortnight ago. Money has made this great prince publish private letters, not only without the consent of the writers, but against the express wishes and the written directions of his own father. Of all this Sir Watkin Williams Wynn complains sorely and justly.

The great revolution which the cheap papers are effecting, not only in London, but throughout the kingdom, is forcibly illustrated by the death of the *Edinburgh Advertiser*, one of the oldest journals in the country, seeing that it was started in 1764. This veteran of the press has been incorporated (for few papers actually die—they are incorporated) with the *Edinburgh Evening Courant*.

The items of intelligence from Paris contain the gratifying fact that M. Henri de Pène, the young comic writer, who obtained such notoriety and popularity from being made the victim of a clique of military braves, is sufficiently recovered to be once more at work. A volume has lately appeared, under the title of "Paris Intime," containing a collection of some of his best papers, which have appeared in the publications to which he has contributed. The story of the duel is graphically related in these pages.

Among the most important books which have appeared in Paris during the last week, may be mentioned another of M. Ampère's delightful studies of Roman History, called "César, Scènes Historiques" (Michel-Lévy), in which the career of the great Roman, from the day when Sylla detected his growing ambition, down to that fatal one in the "Ides of March," when he fell, struck by the dagger of Brutus, is related in a style which comprises the fancy of the poet and of the romancer with the accuracy of the historian. Jules Simon, emulating Mr. John Stuart Mill, has published a work, in two volumes, on Liberty (Hachette), completing the trilogy with the treatises on Natural Religion and Liberty of Conscience. It is spoken of as carrying the doctrines of Simonism still further than they have ever yet been carried. "Dernières Etudes Historiques et Littéraires" (Lévy) is the title of a pair of volumes by M. Cuvillier Henry, made up of articles by that journalist, and collected from the columns of old newspapers. The value of such a *sarrago libelli* is problematical. That popular writer, Louis Reybaud, has published a grave treatise, called "Etudes sur la Régime des Manu-

factures" (Levy), in which he endeavours to set forth the revolutions which the change in the manners of the age enforces upon certain branches of trade and manufacture. M. Le Pelletier de Saint-Rémy has published a volume on the French Antilles (Guillaumin), which is well spoken of, and M. Bouillevaux, a retired missionary, another agreeable little volume on Indo-China, showing that part of Cochinchina which borders on India.

HORACE WALPOLE.

Journal of the Reign of King George the Third, from the year 1771 to 1783. By Horace Walpole. Now first published from the original MSS. Edited, with notes, by Dr. Doran. In 2 vols. London: R. Bentley.

The Letters of Horace Walpole. Edited by Peter Cunningham. Now first chronologically arranged, in 9 volumes. Vol IX. London: R. Bentley.

To any one who should skim over the critical journals of the last forty years for notices of Horace Walpole, it would be curious to observe the steady rise which his character, at least his literary character, has been making during that period. Horace Walpole, like many other men, more or less famous than he, had formed for himself an ideal character and position, which he was constantly holding up to the world as that which he would accept as a faithful likeness; and the world, as it generally does in such cases, took him at his word, and stamped him at his own valuation. To say that he was an idler, a dilettanti gentleman, a virtuoso, a fastidious connoisseur, an elegant trifler, a writer with a crowquill of airy nothings, a gimcrack architect, an amateur author, and ostentatious despoiler of the vulgar herd of Grub-street "scribblers," a devout believer in the virtue and grace of long pedigrees, were once the commonplaces of all who talked or wrote of Walpole. Even Lord Macaulay, in his celebrated essay on Walpole's correspondence with Mann, repeated these things in a brilliant manner; though he was well answered by Miss Berry's admirable defence. But the world was, before this, coming to a better judgment on the matter. As volume after volume of letters, historical essays, and journals came forth, and were added to the known fruits of his long life, it was begun to be seen that the master of Strawberry Hill had by no means so bad an account to give of his time as he had pleaded guilty to. Like the self-charged profligacy of Bolingbroke, Pope, and Byron, it was felt that the idleness of Walpole was not unlike other men's industry—that his admitted lack of learning was not fatal to his just claim to extensive knowledge, and that his pretence of "trifling" away his days was, in fact, but the outward and fictitious clothing of a long and, on the whole, a useful life. If any one should think otherwise, let him compare upon the shelves of a library the writings of the fine gentleman Walpole even with those of the professed literary hack, his contemporary, Johnson. If Walpole, even regarded as a man of letters, was an idler, what were his friends and correspondents, Gray, Warton, Malone, Isaac Reed, Pinkerton, or a score of others? And if mere bulk should be no test of merit, what writer has done more to amuse and delight his readers than Walpole? What a fund of anecdote is in his letters, journals, and histories—what inexhaustible sources of quotation and illustration! What a world of famous men and women—from King George the First and the Duchess of Kendal—the elderly gentleman in the "breeches of snuff-coloured cloth," and the "lean, ill-favoured old lady," to whom Walpole when a boy was introduced privately by night, in their apartment in the shabby, old, red-brick palace of St. James's—down to Wilkes and the Common Council, and the poor old king in his solitude and madness. Even St. Simon is eclipsed by his English prototype. Whoever writes of the history of the last century must go to Walpole, and will find in him, on the whole, a tolerably honest guide;—for his prejudices, though strong and numerous, lie on the surface, like the weak points of a man good enough, and honest enough, as the world goes. If anybody is not sufficiently warned against them it is his own fault. "You will remember," he said to Archdeacon Coxe, "that I am the son of Sir Robert Walpole, and therefore must be prejudiced in his favour. Facts I will not misrepresent or disguise, but my opinions and reflections on those facts you will receive with caution, and adopt or reject at

your discretion." What more could the truest worshipper of truth have said?

As to Walpole's alleged "heartlessness," there are abundant proofs, not only in Miss Berry's eloquent and beautiful defence, but in the most open facts of his life, to gainsay it. Even his constancy as a correspondent—trifling evidence as it may be thought by some—is to us no slight one in his favour. Let any man ask himself how many of the ardent friendships of his early life have been preserved—how many correspondences which were to last for ever have dropped with the correspondents themselves, and been forgotten? It is no small thing to say that the warmth of a friendship begun in childhood should be steadily maintained in a regular correspondence for more than half a century. No less creditable to Walpole is his hero-worship towards his father, the great Sir Robert; the profound respect and affection with which he regards the memory of his mother, whose reputation the gossips of the age have somewhat tarnished; or his genuine affection for his brother's illegitimate child. We are not thick and thin apologists of Walpole. His narrow class sympathies, his belief in the superior clay whereof his own order were compounded, and his patrician horror of "the mob," jar upon us in these days of progress and reform. But Walpole must be taken with his merits, as well as his failings. The former we are convinced are great; and the latter are such as the wise and charitable will not visit with too harsh a judgment.

The "Journal," edited by Dr. Doran, with notes in his own chatty, pleasant, anecdotal, Walpolean manner, were called by the writer himself the "Last Journals of Horace Walpole." They form a continuation to his "Memoirs of the Reign of King George III.," which terminate in the year 1771. Walpole, in the outset, warns the reader that the Journal "is rather calculated for his own amusement than for posterity;" and he adds: "I like to keep up the thread of my observations; if they prove useful to anybody else, I shall be glad; but I am not to answer for their imperfections, as I intend this Journal for no regular work." The publication has been long delayed—we suspect kept back till the recent death of the old Duchess of Gloucester, for the mother of the Duke of Gloucester was Horace Walpole's favourite niece, the illegitimate daughter of his brother Edward; and there is no portion of the Journal which will be read with greater interest than that in which the journalist gives the history of the marriage of this niece, then Laura, Countess of Waldegrave, famous for her beauty, with the somewhat weak-minded royal duke. Great talk had arisen upon the secret marriage of the Duke of Cumberland with Mrs. Horton, when a new subject of gossip was found in the rumoured marriage of another of the King's brothers, the Duke of Cumberland, which was confirmed on his return from Italy.

Horace affected to have no knowledge of the match, though shrewdly suspected to have been well cognisant of it. In the Diary, however, he mentions his constant neutrality, only now and then dropping a word or two in praise of the excellent heart, and good feeling, and admirable prudence of his niece, who wrote, on her marriage, the following letter to her father, Sir Edward:—

"St. Leonard's, May 19, 1772.

"MY DEAR AND EVER HONORED SIR,—You cannot easily imagine how much every past affliction has been increased to me by my not being at liberty to make you quite easy. The duty to a husband being superior to that we owe a father, I hope will plead my pardon, and that, instead of blaming my past reserve, you will think it commendable.

"When the Duke of Gloucester married me (which was in September, 1766,) I promised him in no consideration in the world, to own it, *even to you*, without his permission; which permission I never had till yesterday, when he arrived in much better health and looks than ever I saw him; yet, as you may suppose, much hurt at all that has past in his absence; so much so, that I have had great difficulty to prevail upon him to let things as much as possible remain as they are. To secure my character, without injuring his, is the utmost of my wishes; and I daresay that you and all my relations will agree with me that I shall be much happier to be called Lady Waldegrave, and respected as Duchess of Gloucester, than to feel myself the cause of his leading such a life as his brother does, in order for me to be called your Royal Highness. I am prepared for the sort of abuse the newspapers will be full of. Very few people will believe that a woman will refuse to be called Princess if it is in her power.

"To have the power is my pride; and not using it

in some measure pays the debt I owe the Duke the honour he has done me.

"All I wish of my relations is, that they will show the world that they are satisfied with my conduct, yet seem to disguise their reasons.

"If ever I am fortunate enough to be called the Duchess of Gloucester, there is an end of almost all the comforts I now enjoy, which, if things can go on as they are now, are many."

The excellent, right feeling, and prudent Duchess, however, was not by any means patient in obscurity, but longed to shine before the world as a real duchess.

Not the least amusing feature in the story of the Duke's match is the rivalry of the Duchess of Cumberland, and the contempt expressed towards that upstart lady by the Walpoles, as well as by the new Duchess of Gloucester. Lady Waldegrave (for so the latter was still called) felt acutely, we are told, the hurt the Duke of Cumberland's marriage had occasioned her. Lady Waldegrave's sister was particularly acrimonious. The recent Mrs. Horton, now Duchess of Cumberland, since her wedding was openly announced, had assumed "uncommon state;" but "their diminutive court," we are told, "was so shunned that she was forced to bestow her hand to be kissed by her menial servants." Her brother, the famous Colonel Luttrell, says the historian of the rival faction, "burned with impatience to see her and himself of more consequence." The Walpoles were not likely to remain patient under this. The Duke of Gloucester was urged to a public declaration; but he delayed, declaring that he had not been able to find an occasion of speaking to the King. It was no wonder that he shrunk from the task, if Walpole's account of the Duke's brother's reception on a similar occasion be correct.

At length, however, the lovely Laura, Dowager Countess of Waldegrave, was openly recognised as Duchess of Gloucester. The Duke would not go to the King himself; but he sent M. Legrand to him to own his marriage. The result was that the King was enraged, the Duke disgraced, the vanity of the lovely Laura satisfied, and the family pride of the Walpoles lifted to the highest point. The Duchess sent for Horace, who had now no longer any scruples about visiting his niece.

We can do no more than allude to a few passages in the journals which abound in interesting matter, political and private, carrying us as they do over the stormy days of Wilkes and the American war, down to August, 1783, where the long series of Walpole's histories comes at last to an end.

The second publication, whose title we have placed at the head of this paper, also brings to a close Mr. Cunningham's edition of the letters. The concluding volume is prefaced by a neat memoir of the Walpole family, and ends with a valuable index—so long a desideratum to the historical student—to the whole nine volumes. For the notes which Mr. Cunningham has furnished, we cannot, indeed, say much. Walpole requires in these days some noting to make allusions, already obscured by time, intelligible to the reader; but Mr. Cunningham furnishes little but an occasional memorandum—*apropos* or *mal-à-propos*—that the person mentioned in the text "died" such a day and year—a copiousness of tombstone information, due, we suspect, in no small degree to the lucky circumstance of the existence in the British Museum of a very extensive manuscript obituary index. The bringing, however, of the whole of Walpole's correspondence, including the letters to Lady Ossory, Sir Horace Mann, and Mason, into regular chronological order, in nine handsome, but cheap volumes, is in itself a real service to historical literature. The collection comprises 117 letters never hitherto published, besides 35 others that have not been included in any previous edition—the whole reaching the great number of 2,665 letters—the result of the spare moments of the supposed idler. Readers can now expect nothing more from the same lively pen. The rich mine of Walpolean manuscripts must be exhausted; and the complete works of Horace Walpole are before the world.

SIR WILLIAM HAMILTON'S LECTURES.
Lectures on Metaphysics. By Sir William Hamilton, Bart. Edited by the Rev. H. L. Mansel, B.D., Oxford, and John Veitch, M.A., Edinburgh. 2 vols. W. Blackwood and Sons.

(SECOND NOTICE)

THE cardinal doctrine and key note of Sir

William Hamilton's division of the mental faculties is, that consciousness is not, as such previous metaphysicians as Locke and Reid had taught, a special faculty of the mind, but the universal condition and pre-requisite of all conceivable mental states. The following words, from Lecture IX, on "Consciousness—its special Conditions," contain a clear and forcible statement of the doctrine:—

"In taking a comprehensive survey of the mental phenomena, these are all seen to comprise one essential element, or to be possible only under one necessary condition. This element or condition is Consciousness, or the knowledge that I,—that the Ego exists, in some determinate state. In this knowledge they appear, or are realised as phenomena, and with this knowledge they likewise disappear, or have no longer a phenomenal existence; so that consciousness may be compared to an internal light, by means of which, and which alone, what passes in the mind is rendered visible. Consciousness is simple,—is not composed of parts, either similar or dissimilar. It always resembles itself, differing only in the degrees of its intensity; thus, there are not various kinds of consciousness, although there are various kinds of mental modes, or states, of which we are conscious. Whatever division, therefore, of the mental phenomena may be adopted, all its members must be within consciousness; that is, we must not attempt to divide consciousness itself, which must be viewed as comprehensive of the whole phenomena to be divided; far less should we reduce it, as a special phenomenon, to a particular class. Let consciousness, therefore, remain one and indivisible, comprehending all the modifications,—all the phenomena, of the thinking subject."

Consciousness having been viewed in its general relations, Sir W. goes on to analyse its more particular modifications; in other words, the special faculties of knowledge. They are these—and in their classification Sir W. Hamilton is original:—I. The presentative faculty, comprising external perception and internal perception, or self-consciousness. II. The conservative faculty, or memory. III. The reproductive faculty, comprising reproduction without will, or suggestion; and reproduction with will, or reminiscence. IV. The representative faculty, or imagination. V. The elaborative faculty, comparison, or the faculty of relations. VI. The regulative faculty, reason, or common sense.

Anything more clear, exhaustive, and self-evident than this classification of the intellectual powers we cannot conceive. Translated into popular and unscientific language, it simply means this. The processes which our minds can perform, as revealed to us by consciousness, are these:—I. The mind can receive an impression, idea, or item of knowledge, either from without, through the senses, or by introspection upon itself, or reflection. II. By memory it can preserve for itself and lay up in the store-house of remembrance such items of knowledge. III. These are recalled to consciousness, either by accidental suggestion, or by the willed effort of recollection. IV. The kaleidoscope of imagination can reproduce these items of knowledge in new combinations and forms, and so enrich the mind with self-combined creations. V. The faculty of reasoning can also reproduce for itself new creations, by elaborating and marshalling the items of its knowledge, into successions suggested by the relations of cause and effect, means and end, premise and conclusion. VI. All these faculties of the mind are exercised under the control, and in conformity with the supremacy of the reason, that is, "the power the mind has of being the native source of certain necessary or *a priori* cognitions; which cognitions, as they are the conditions, the forms, under which our knowledge in general is possible, constitute so many fundamental laws of intellectual nature." Such are the necessary idea of causality, the conditions of time and space, &c.

This is the skeleton of the Hamiltonian system of the psychology of the cognitions. Each one of the six divisions is most amply elaborated. And not only are the author's own views stated with the fullest expatiation, but there is the most wondrously fertile and prolific citation of authorities, authorities of every age and every school, authorities of every shade of opinion, authorities known as masters of philosophy, and unknown except to those who approach very near to the author's own recondite erudition. The wondrous learning displayed must strike the most learned reader with the deepest astonishment. That Sir W. Hamilton

was the most learned man that Europe has seen since Julius Scaliger, we believe cannot be denied. And there is the most thorough absence of all pedantry. Pegasus is kept in thorough control; and you are strongly reminded of the graceful and well-moulded eruditeness of "Paradise Lost," when you see in these lectures, studied as they are with quotations and references, that so apposite are the citations, so appropriate the context of original commentary or correction, that were it not for the inverted commas and foot notes, you would hardly know that more than one mind was contributing the ideas. The whole text runs with continuous and unbroken clearness. Apart altogether from the high original merits of the lectures, their value as an eclectic manual of the history of metaphysical speculation is unequalled. As a fair specimen of the general style of the lectures, and as illustrative of our latter remarks, we extract the following on the definitions of philosophy, from one of the nine popular introductory lectures.

"The term *philosophy*, I may notice, which was originally assumed in modesty, soon lost its Socratic and etymological signification, and returned to the meaning of wisdom. Quintilian calls it *nomen insolentissimum*; Seneca, *nomen invidiosum*; Epictetus counsels his scholars not to call themselves "Philosophers;" and proud is one of the most ordinary epithets with which philosophy is now associated. Thus Campbell, in his Address to the Rainbow, says:

"I ask not proud philosophy
To tell me what thou art."

"So much for the name, signifying; we proceed now to the thing signified. Were I to detail to you the various definitions of philosophy which philosophers have promulgated—far more, were I to explain the grounds on which the author of each maintains the exclusive adequacy of his peculiar definition—I should, in the present stage of your progress, only perplex and confuse you. Philosophy, for example,—and I select only a few specimens of the more illustrious definitions,—philosophy has been defined:—The science of things divine and human, and of the causes in which they are contained;—The science of effects by their causes;—The science of sufficient reasons;—The science of things possible, inasmuch as they are possible;—The science of things, evidently deduced from first principles;—The science of truths, sensible and abstract;—The application of reason to its legitimate objects;—The science of the relations of all knowledge to the necessary ends of human reason;—The science of the original form of the ego or mental self;—The science of science;—The science of the absolute;—The science of the absolute indifference of the ideal and real—or, The identity of identity and non-identity, &c. &c. All such definitions are (if not positively erroneous), either so vague that they afford no precise knowledge of their object; or they are so partial, that they exclude what they ought to comprehend; or they are of such a nature that they supply no preliminary information, and are only to be understood (if ever) after a knowledge has been acquired of that which they profess to explain. It is, indeed, perhaps impossible, adequately to define philosophy. For what is to be defined comprises what cannot be included in a single definition. For philosophy is not regarded from a single point of view,—it is sometimes considered as theoretical,—that is, in relation to man as a thinking and cognitive intelligence; sometimes as practical,—that is in relation to man as a moral agent;—and sometimes, as comprehending both theory and practice. Again, philosophy may either be regarded objectively,—that is, as a complement of truths known; or subjectively,—that is, as a habit or quality of the mind knowing. In these circumstances, I shall not attempt a definition of philosophy, but shall endeavour to accomplish the end which every definition proposes,—make you understand, as precisely as the unprecise nature of the object-matter permits, what is meant by philosophy, and what are the sciences it properly comprehends within its sphere.

"As a matter of history I may here, however, parenthetically mention, that in Greek antiquity there were in all six definitions of philosophy which obtained celebrity. On these collectively there are extant various treatises. Among the commentators of Aristotle, that of Ammonius Hermiae is the oldest; and the fullest is one by an anonymous author, lately published by Dr. Cramer, in the fourth volume of his *Anecdota Græca Parisiensia*. Of the six, the first and second define philosophy from its object-matter,—that which it is about; the third and fourth, from its end,—that for the sake of which it is; the fifth, from its relative pre-eminence; and the sixth, from its etymology. The first of these definitions of philosophy is—"the knowledge of things existent, as existent." The second is—"the knowledge of things divine and human." These are both from the object-

matter; and both were referred to Pythagoras. The third and fourth, the two definitions of philosophy from its end, are, again, both taken from Plato. Of these the third is,—philosophy is a meditation of death; the fourth,—philosophy is a remembering of the Deity in so far as that is competent to man." The fifth, that from its pre-eminence, was borrowed from Aristotle, and defined philosophy "the art of arts, and science of sciences." Finally, the sixth, that from the etymology, was, like the first and second, carried up to Pythagoras—it defined philosophy "the love of wisdom." To these a seventh and even an eighth were sometimes added,—but the seventh was that by the physicians, who defined medicine the philosophy of bodies; and philosophy, the medicine of souls. This was derided by the philosophers; as, to speak with Homer, being an exchange of brass for gold, and of gold for brass, and as defining the more known by the less known. The eighth is from an expression of Plato, who, in the Theætetus, calls philosophy "the greatest music," meaning thereby the harmony of the rational, irascible, and appetent, parts of the soul."

Of the manner in which the editors of these volumes have discharged their task, no commendation can be too high. The one, as doubtless most of our readers know, is the accomplished Professor of Mental Philosophy at Oxford. The other is one of Sir William Hamilton's most distinguished students, and already known as a philosophical writer, by his excellent translation of, and commentary on, the Port Royal Logic. As editors, they deserve this high praise: they have done nothing more than was required of them, yet they have done more than the reader could fairly have expected. They keep clear of the impertinence (and the temptation was strong to gentlemen who are themselves most accomplished metaphysicians) of commenting upon the lectures themselves, or adding explanatory notes. On the other hand, the margin is frequently enriched with additional extempore elucidations, introduced by Sir William, in his delivery of the lectures, and obtained from the note-books of students, with notes extracted from Sir William's common-place book and miscellaneous papers; and—greatest wonder of all, and greatest service to the reader—every citation made, or reference to the opinions of others, by Sir William, is traced and verified by the editors; and the foot-note contains the exact book and page where the passages are to be found. Thus, in the following sentences, to every name cited there is a note attached, informing the reader where he can at once peruse the whole statement of the reviews referred to. "Descartes distributed philosophy into theoretical and practical, with various subdivisions; but his followers adopted the division of Logic, Metaphysics, Physics, and Ethics. Gassendi recognised, like the ancients, these parts of Philosophy, Logic, Physics, and Ethics; and this, along with many other of Gassendi's doctrines, was adopted by Locke. Kant distinguished philosophy into theoretical and practical, with various subdivisions; and the distribution into theoretical and practical, was also established by Fichte." To the first volume are appended excellent appendices, including fragments found in the author's desk, written immediately before his death, on "Kant and Reid," "the Scottish School," &c. To the second volume is attached an appendix to the whole, sufficiently ample, and at once alphabetical and *raisonnée*.

Who, with the smallest capacity of mental introspection, that has ever approached as an acolyte the steps of the noble temple of philosophy, especially if led to his first worship by a high priest of the rites, can forget the multitude of conflicting emotions, of wonder, awe, the eagerest curiosity, the consciousness of strength and dignity, the conviction of littleness and insignificance, that at once overflowed his mind? In all your previous education you have been carried away from yourself, into the external world of nature, and the past ages of history. You have been led in the past to contemplate the wondrous forms and adaptations of material creation; your attention has been occupied by the great deeds that other men did—the rich words that other men spoke. If a Scottish student, you have up till this moment been at school, under instructors who taught you authoritatively what you must accept and believe, because they told it you. For, by the sad necessities of Scottish education, even when at the University you approached the study of the higher humanities, you were instructed, as a schoolboy, in the elements of grammar and verbal criticism. The summer recess elapses, and again you return to

alma mater. You take your seat in a cheerless class-room, unadorned save by the records in letters of gold of the prizemen of past sessions, and the suggestive motto, above the professor's chair—

"On earth there is nothing great but man.
In man there is nothing great but mind."

Your instructor enters, already endeared to you by his ancient and renowned Scottish lineage, and by your knowledge that France esteems him as she esteems Cousin; that Germany holds him second only to Kant. You have a vague notion as to what philosophy really is. Perhaps your previous preparation for its study has not extended beyond Whately's meagre grammar of Logic, or the cold and cheerless Essay of Locke; you naturally expect that again, as before, you are to be led away from yourself—it may be further away than ever—and to dwell upon the nice distinctions of scholastics and commentators. You have not listened long before the truth dawns upon you that you are now to study *yourself*; that you are to bow to no authority, but that you are anxiously to look for all guidance; that you are to be surrounded by a cloud of witnesses and fellow-worshippers—the light of the world in every age. With Socrates you are to dispute in the marketplace, and sit with Plato, and Phaedo by his bedside, as he discourses to you, while the hemlock courses up his body, on the immortality of his and your soul. With Cudworth you are to trace the foundations and examine the bulwarks of "Eternal and Immutable Morality." With Reid you are to take your stand on those "principles of common sense," firmly erect on which you may defy the insidious sophistries of a soul-freezing materialism, and the airy plausibilities of sceptical idealism. All these are your fellow-worshippers. Your professor himself a fellow-student. He tells you that he and you must approach the temple of philosophy, as you must approach the temple of religion, in the spirit of little children; and that all he says and all you hear you must refer to the standard of your own consciousness, and only accept what it testifies to be true. With a grave and stately Roman eloquence, he entices you to the exciting but arduous study, by displaying to you its benefits and pleasures, by informing your mind of the high mental culture it alone will give—of its regnancy and supremacy over all the adjacent provinces of human study through which you wish to journey. He shows you how your deepest religious convictions are anchored in its truths; he warns you of its limits, but directs your eyes over the sufficiency of its domain; and having described to you the only method by which you can become possessed of its treasures, accustomed you to its use, and warned you of the impediments and hindrances you yourself carry with you into the struggle, he at once carries you through a complete and elaborate classification of the very powers to which he has already given a new strength and elasticity.

Whatever benefits arose from these teachings to some twenty successive waves of Edinburgh studentship, are now spread out and offered to the world of thinkers; and we can believe no otherwise than that the increased intellectual advantages will be commensurate with the extended publicity.

Lectures on the History of Literature, Ancient and Modern; from the German of Frederick Schlegel, now first completely translated, and accompanied by a general index. H. G. Bohn.

The previous translation of this well-known work of F. Schlegel did not profess to be literal and complete. It is understood to have been an abridgment of the original made by the late Mr. Lockhart, who systematically omitted the author's religious opinions. The present version is the produce of the labour of three translators, and gives the text in full. An index also is added, which is of manifest utility. The work will be welcome to the library of scholars and gentlemen.

The Prince of the House of David; or, Three Years in the Holy City. Edited by the Rev. Professor J. H. Ingraham. Illustrated with Engravings.

Arthur Hall, Virtue, and Co. This is a kind of harmony of the Four Gospels, in connexion with the Old Testament prophecies, thrown into the form of a fiction, and supposed to be contained in a series of letters from Adina to her father, Manasseh Benjamin, a native of Alexandria, as an actual eye-witness of the transactions. The whole is written in a semi-poetical style, which will prove attractive to religious readers of the sentimental class.

The Parents' Cabinet of Amusement and Instruction.

Smith, Elder, and Co. This is a new edition of a very pleasant little work, with a coloured frontispiece representing the discovery of the Pacific Ocean.

An Index of Dates; comprehending the principal facts in the Chronology and History of the World, from the earliest to the present time. By I. Willoughby Roscoe. Vol. II.—K to Z.

Henry G. Bohn. The information contained in this volume is alphabetically arranged, and the whole is intended as, and forms, "a complete Index to the enlarged edition of 'Blair's Chronological Tables.'" Of course, the value of the work consists in its accuracy; and as far as we have been able to test the contents we have found them exactly and correctly stated. The range of information is very wide.

Greek Texts; with Notes.—Iliad of Homer, Books I.—VI.

Oxford: John Henry and James Parker. THESE are the first six books of the Iliad, capitally printed as a pocket volume, with excellent notes, intended for the use of schools, but which will be found of the utmost value to every student of Homer.

Diary and Correspondence of John Evelyn, F.R.S. Edited from the original MSS. at Wotton. By William Bray, Esq., F.A.S. New Edition. In 4 vols. Vol. III.

Henry G. Bohn. We have already given an account of this corrected, revised, and enlarged edition of Evelyn's celebrated Diary, on the publication of the first two volumes. We have now only to recognise the fact that the third is ready for the purchaser.

The Handbook of the Court; the Peerage; the House of Commons. Ninth year.

P. S. King. A most useful compilation, "corrected to January, 1859, from information supplied by the members of both Houses." The parliamentary information is remarkably extensive; the places represented being given, with the members and their political opinions, and the number of registered electors. Analyses of the representation, and other means of judgment are afforded, rendering the work invaluable to the practical politician.

The Church Distinguished; or, the Christian Community in its Relations to the World. By Caleb Webb.

Houlston and Wright. The title of this work indicates the nature of the argument maintained. It is ably conducted, and in a charitable spirit. The writer is a supernaturalist in his views.

Historical Gleanings at Home and Abroad. By Mrs. Frances Jamieson.

T. C. Newby. An authoress eighty years old pleads for indulgence. She has, however, compiled an amusing volume on the Crusades and other similar subjects, which we trust may become popular.

Plain Sermons, preached at Archbishop Tenison's Chapel, Regent-street. By James Galloway Cowan, minister. Published by request.

William Skeffington. THESE sermons are elegantly written, and very fair specimens of pulpit composition.

MISCELLANIES.

On the Christian Duty of the British Government in India. By Abd Al-Wahid.

Williams and Norgate. This is a sensible pamphlet, founded on facts, and on the great and lamentable facts that Christians in India are not Christians in reality, but only in name and profession. From this the writer argues that it is impolitic, so soon after the sepy rebellion, to moot the question of proselytism. Utter neutrality in regard to religious opinion must be the rule of Government; and the breach of this will, the writer insists, lead to awful bloodshed.

Another pamphlet on the same subject, entitled;—*Proselytism in India; the Question at issue examined; in a Letter to Sir George Clerk, K.C.B., &c., with an Appendix containing an account of the recent Tinnevelly Slaughter.* By George Norton, M.A., late Advocate-General of Madras.

Richardson Brothers. Advocates the expediency of separating secular from religious instruction, and promoting the former as the best means of establishing our authority in India.

Italy; its Condition: Great Britain; its Policy.

By an English Liberal. James Ridgway. This brochure consists of a series of letters, addressed to Lord John Russell, in which the writer concurs with the noble lord in holding that the wisest course is to leave the Italians alone, and let them expel the Austrians without any interference from other states. England, at any rate, can have no interest in the thralldom of Italy—none in the maintenance of the temporal power of the Pope. The horrors of the system of government are laid bare with a mas-

terly hand. Austria, the writer considers, is the Pope's hangman; Rome is the cesspool of corruption, of exemptions and privileges. But he deals not alone in oburgation: he proves his case thoroughly, and treats his argument conclusively. The organised injustice of Austria ought, in his opinion, to deprive her of the sympathy of every Englishman. Treaties, he contends, were made for man—not man for treaties; and is assured that the English people will never be persuaded to go to war that the Italians may be enslaved. Our active intervention is, in his opinion, required, "not for the sake of rushing into war, but for the sake of preserving the peace of Europe."

Two pamphlets claim our notice on telegraph communication, namely:—

(1) *The Atlantic and South Atlantic Telegraphs.* By a Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers. Smith, Elder, and Co.

(2) *A Telegraph Half-way to America: Why it is not used?* Edinghara Wilson.

THE first publication advocates the right of the projectors of the experiment that has partially failed, to demand help from the Government, and further capital from the public, in order to repeat it with a better chance of ultimate success. But it claims an equal right for the South Atlantic project, in favour of which divers reasons are adduced. The second pamphlet proposes a new route, and a point of call at St. John's, the most eastern seaport of North America, the point of departure being a port in the west of Ireland—Galway, probably. Canadian letters might proceed to Boston or Portland. An approach to the scheme proposed has been made by means of a contract entered into by the Lords of the Treasury with the Atlantic Royal Mail Company, and to this our pamphleteer refers in a postscript, with approbation. So far, well.

Chloroform and other Anaesthetics: their History and Use during Childbirth. By John Chapman, M.D.

Williams and Norgate. An excellent essay, reprinted from the *Westminster Review*, for January, 1859.

A Few Observations in Favour of the Principles which now Regulate the Sale of Spirituous Liquors in Scotland.

James Ridgway. This is an attempted reply to Mr. Stirling's sensible pamphlet, to which we lately called attention.

The Militia and the Recruiting Service, with Suggestions on their Reorganisation. By Captain E. Finch Hatton.

Bosworth and Harrison. THIS pamphlet contains many sensible remarks on the defective state of our militia.

(1) *Speech on the Laws relating to the Property of Intestates, in the House of Commons, February 17, 1859.* By R. J. Locke King, M.P.

James Ridgway. (2) *May a Man Marry his Deceased Wife's Sister?* By the Rev. F. A. Dawson, A.M.

J. H. and James Parke. Two tracts that will repay perusal; but from the opinions of the second we decidedly dissent.

The Maid of Avenel: a Ballad Opera. By D. M. Aird.

H. Bale. A TENTATIVE dramatic essay on Sir Walter Scott's "Monastery," abounding in songs, which run trippingly on, and, no doubt, would tell if set to appropriate music.

Charlotte and Myra. A Puzzle in Six Bits. By Winwood Reade.

Trübner and Co. AN example of "heavy lightness, serious vanity." *Rubāiyāt of Omar Khayyām, the Astronomer-Poet of Persia.* Translated into English verse.

Bernard Quaritch. THIS is an exceedingly good translation of a very celebrated poem.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

A Lady's Escape from Gwalior, and Life in the Fort of Agra, during the Mutiny of 1857. Smith, Elder and Co.

Speeches of the Right Honorable Lord Stanley, M.P. Smith, Elder and Co.

A Decade of Italian Women. By T. Adolphus Trollope. 2 vols. Chapman and Hall.

Round the Sofa. In 2 vols. Sampson, Low, and Co.

A New History of the Conquest of Mexico. By Robert Anderson Wilson. Trübner and Co.

Personal Narrative of Military Travel in Turkey, &c. By Robert Macdonald, Edinburgh. A. and C. Black.

Rubāiyāt of Omar Khayyām. Translated in English verse. Bernard Quaritch.

Sermons Preached. By Rev. Robert Bland, Chaplain of Gowhatt, Assam. Orger and Meryon.

A Comprehensive History of India. No. 11, 12, 13 and 14. Blackie and Son.

Every Child's History of France. By E. Farr. Dean and Son.

The Duchesse of Orleans. A memoir. By Mrs. Austin. W. Jeffs.

Sixth Annual Report of the Tonic Sol-Fa Association. J. and W. Rider.

The Army in its Medico-Sanitary Relations. Sutherland and Knox.

FACTS AND SCRAPS.

The King of Sardinia completed the 39th year of his age on Monday.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge has sent £25 towards the St. Paul's Cathedral Fund.

The Princess Alice will be confirmed at Windsor during the Easter recess. The ceremony will be limited to its purely religious character.

On Thursday, the little Prince Imperial entered his fourth year, Paris did not illuminate in honour of the event.

Colonel Tait, C.B., and aide-de-camp to the Queen (brother to the Bishop of London), expired at London House, St. James's-square, on Wednesday evening.

The Head Mastership of the King's School, Canterbury, has been conferred on the Rev. John Mitchinson, M.A., of Pembroke College, Oxford.

At the anniversary meeting of the Statistical Society on Tuesday, it was stated that Lord John Russell had acceded to the request of the council to be placed in nomination for the office of president.

The marriage of Mlle. Eveillard, daughter of the French Consul who was murdered at Djeddah, to M. Emerat, was celebrated at the church of St. Clothilde, Paris, on Saturday.

At a meeting of the Richmond Bridge Commissioners, on the 10th instant, it was decided that on the 25th instant, the toll bar should be removed, and the bridge declared free to the public.

The National Gallery, Edinburgh, is to be opened on and after the 22nd, though the permanent and complete arrangements do not come into operation till the 6th April.

A ballot has taken place for the election of a chaplain to St. Pancras Workhouse, in the room of the Rev. Thomas Pugh, resigned. The Rev. J. K. Jennings was declared duly elected.

Madame Goldschmidt and her husband will, it is said, visit Leeds in the autumn, and give their services gratuitously at a grand concert in aid of the Leeds Mechanics' Institution.

The workmen of the Elswick Engine Works, to the number of about 900, were entertained by their employer, Sir William Armstrong, to a grand dinner in the Assembly Rooms, Newcastle, on Saturday last.

A letter from Naples says:—"An American, who had received disastrous news from home threw himself, while in the presence of a number of persons, into a current of lava, at Vesuvius. His body was, of course, almost instantly consumed."

The Rev. Edward Parry, private secretary and domestic chaplain of the late, and present bishop of London, has been rewarded for his services with the living of Acton, Middlesex, the value of which is between 900*l.* and 1,000*l.* a year.

The Afghan chief, Sid Dyk Khan, who has been at Constantinople for two years as a refugee from Candahar, has left for Alexandria on board the Silistria, with a suite of twenty-four persons. He intends proceeding thence to England.

Arrangements are in progress for erecting a new pier at London-bridge, on the Surrey side of the river. Persons who land at the steam-boat pier, will be able to pass under the bridge and ascend on the side of the road nearest the railway.

The Nord speaks of a *memoire* which the Abbe-Prince Lucien Bonaparte has sent to the Emperor upon the Italian question. The Abbe-Prince Bonaparte was educated at Rome, is very devoted to the Pope, and has up to this time refused all the honours offered him by the Emperor.

The first stone of a villa which Rossini intends building at Passa was laid the other day near the Promenade du Ranelagh. The maestro himself officiated on the occasion, and placed under the stone an inscription and a medal which had been struck in honour of his *Stabat*.

"Amongst the events of the fortnight," says the Bengal *Hurkaru*, "are an ordination, at which three natives from the north-western provinces were admitted to the order of deacons. At Barripore, sixteen miles south of Calcutta, on the 27th Feb. 102 native Christians were confirmed."

The late Mr. Commissioner Phillips left personalty valued at 30,000*l.* and bequeathed the whole to his widow, excepting a gold snuff-box, a goblet, and a travelling case, which contained a knife, fork, and spoon, formerly belonging to the Emperor Napoleon.

At Lebanon, Kentucky, a young lady was waiting in her room ready dressed for her marriage, when the bridegroom, on opening the door, occasioned a draught, which blew her veil into the fire. In a moment she was in flames, and so dreadful were the injuries she received that death ensued.

The Jerusalem Literary Society, which was set on foot some years ago for the purpose of investi-

gating on the spot the history and antiquities of the Holy Land, so unaccountably neglected by the great bulk of the English residents, has resumed its meetings, under the presidency of her Britannic Majesty's Consul, Mr. Finn.

SURVEYING EXPEDITIONS.—Orders have been forwarded from the Horse Guards to the head-quarters of the Royal Engineer establishment at Chatham, directing a surveying expedition of the Royal Engineers to be held in readiness to proceed to Montenegro, for the purpose of making an accurate survey of the boundary line to Constantinople. The officers named to accompany the expedition are Captain Cox and Lieutenant Sitwell, R.E. Another expedition of the Royal Engineers is also in course of formation for the purpose of proceeding by the overland route to Persia to survey the Turkish and Persian boundary line. This expedition is likely to be absent from England three years.

RUSSIAN DINNERS. On the now favourite fashion of dining, on the Russian model, Monsieur Gogué has a word to say. There can be no doubt but that the old system of laying on all the dishes together, "though it has something grand and noble, and causes an agreeable surprise, ravishing the eyes before satisfying the taste," still has this serious drawback; they get a little cold before they can be served, and thus are sure to lose "some of their most precious qualities," to say nothing of the atmosphere which the combined savours of so many dishes is sure to generate. On the other hand, the Muscovite practice ensures the service taking place with extraordinary rapidity, and the viands being eaten at the precise instant they ought to be. It has that incontestable recommendation. It has also this economical advantage—have you twelve or twenty guests: all that is to be done is to reinforce each plate as required, there being no necessity for extra dishes. But what is perfect in this world! Monsieur Gogué darkly hints that, under this Russian cloak, preparations that have visited the table on a previous occasion, may be introduced without danger of discovery, by which unworthy subterfuge, for instance a salmon that yesterday evening adorned the foot of the table, may to-day be foisted on the unsuspecting guest, in flimsy disguise of a side-dish! To sum up all, the Russian plan seems to countenance good cheer; but the old French plan is the more noble, more elegant, and splendid of the two!—*Household Words*.

OFFICIAL CORRUPTION IN AMERICA.—The recent report of the Investigating Committee of the House of Representatives, demonstrates the painful fact that in "the model Republic of the world," corruption of the most degraded kind pervades every branch of the public service, dictates the course of the Government, and finds a ready and not always tacit accomplice in the President himself. It charges and proves that the country is governed by politics more than policy, and for the profit of political partisans rather than for the general good; that the Executive and his Cabinet freely employ the public money to purchase friends and partisans; and that for the gratification of a weak ambition the President of the Republic descends to the arrangement of the details of bargain, and sale of the meanest of the offices in his gift for the meanest of party purposes. That similar crimes were committed before the present administration came into power we fear is only too true. That previous impunity has only tended to aggravate the evil, and more firmly establish this system of robbery and wrong at Washington is only too obvious. The report of the committee of investigation, indeed, is an indictment such as can scarcely find a parallel in modern history, unless we seek it in the recent events in Hayti. Souloque, the black Emperor, plundered his country for his own private emolument—Mr. Buchanan, the white President, consents to the plunder of his country for the emolument and advantage of his private friends. Many of our newspapers and all our stump orators are accustomed to rail, in terms unmeasured and with reproach unstinted, against the despotism of the world. We denounce it and repel it. We devoutly thank God in the face of all nations that we are not as other men, and we proclaim that all people to be free and happy, must do as we do and be as we are. And yet there is no ruler in the Old World who would stoop to such paltry peculation as has just been revealed here; there is no Government in Europe that would condescend to share the hire of the labourer appointed for political purposes; there is no form of society between the British Isles and the Caucasus that would not turn with scorn from any public body guilty of such miserable national pocket-picking. If such a system be permitted to continue, the country can never achieve the greatness to which the genius, intelligence, and enterprise of the people, if honestly directed, would entitle it. If there be no punishment for venality in high places, there will be incessant encouragement to venality, because it is profitable in money and in power.—*New York Times*.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Friday Evening, March 18th.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

A LONG discussion arose in reference to the proclamation of Oude. There was nothing of importance produced, except the statement by the Earl of DERBY, that the Government were in full accord with the Governor-General, and that it was the intention of the Government to advise her Majesty to raise him a step higher in the peerage.

Some strong comments were made by Lord GRANVILLE on the dispatch written by Lord Stanley to the Governor-General.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH said the dispatch was justified by Lord Canning's conduct.

Some remarks were made about the appointments of magistrates in Ireland. It was asserted that the system of appointments objected to took its rise in previous administrations.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

As soon as the House assembled, Mr. ROEBUCK asked Lord J. Russell to withdraw his motion which stands for Monday, and to substitute a series of resolutions which the House could take into consideration. If the noble Lord persevered in his course, it could only be for the purpose of throwing out the present Government, and procuring a dissolution. He could assure the noble lord that it was most undesirable under present circumstances, to persevere, so as to lead to a dissolution, as in that case it might tend to precipitate war on the Continent. The object of the noble lord's motion was to bring those again into power who had been last year put out of office. This he could by no means approve of. He also wished to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether, in case Lord J. Russell consented to what he asked, whether he (Mr. Disraeli) would withdraw his bill, and bring in another founded on such resolutions as the House might adopt.

Mr. COX said he had a similar notice on the books. The Resolution of Lord John Russell did not go far enough, and would not satisfy the Radical party in that House. He wished the noble lord to state what he intended to do about the Ballot. He could tell the noble lord (Lord John Russell), if he did not give his adhesion to the Ballot, he would never be considered by fifty members who supported the Ballot, as their leader.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL considered this discussion premature. He hoped on Monday night to be able to satisfy the House that the course he proposed to take was the right one. When the time came for discussing the question of the Ballot he should be then prepared to avow his sentiments.

VOTE OF THANKS TO LORD CLYDE, THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, AND THE OFFICERS OF THE ARMY.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL inquired whether it was intended to propose a vote of thanks to Lord Clyde, the Governor-General, and the officers who had distinguished themselves in the pacification of Oude. The noble lord accused the Government of conveying, by the sneering tone of the last dispatch, the distrust which they entertained towards the Governor-General.

LORD STANLEY said it was the intention of Government to propose to the House a vote of thanks to all those who, either in a civil or military capacity, had assisted in the pacification of Oude.

LORD PALMERSTON, advertent to the dispatch alluded to by Lord John Russell, deeply regretted that Lord Stanley had written a despatch so sneering and ironical in answer to Lord Canning's despatch, which deserved different treatment.

QUEEN'S MESSENGERS.

Mr. WISE inquired what was the remuneration of the Queen's messengers, and how the £40,000 voted to defray their expenses was disposed of.

Mr. FITZGERALD would lay the papers on the table, which would explain the matter. The salary was £550 a year, with a liberal allowance for travelling expenses.

THE REFORM BILL.

Mr. RICH gave notice that in Committee, on the disfranchisement of small boroughs, he should move that property, as well as population, be taken into account.

THE SUPERANNUATION BILL.

SIR S. NORTHGOTE, in moving that the House go into Committee on this bill, said, it was precisely similar to the bill introduced by the late Government last year, and was intended to correct the confusion into which superannuations had fallen since the Act of 1834, by which Act all persons were entitled to superannuation, except those who were otherwise provided for by Act of Parliament. The hon. baronet then adverted to the objections that had been raised against portions of the bill, and gave his reasons why he did not think the objections well

founded. With respect to the bill entailing further expense on the country, he was not prepared to give a decided answer on that point. The bill would define what the Civil Service meant, and no one would be entitled to superannuation in future who did not come under the definition of a civil servant. Securities would be taken that improper persons were not admitted into the service, nor persons too old. Also care would be taken to select a better class of persons to fill subordinate situations. Then with respect to very old civil servants, liberal provision for their retirement would be made. There might be some discontent, but he believed the mass of civil servants were satisfied with the bill.

After a long discussion the House went into Committee. Several alterations were acceded to, but none of any vital importance. The bill then passed through Committee, the other orders of the day were disposed of, and the House adjourned at half-past twelve.

FRANCE.

Count Cavour has summoned General Ulloa, the defender of Venice, to take service in the Piedmontese artillery. It is stated that General Patrick McMahon is to command the Piedmont army as Generalissimo.

L'Univers of yesterday prints a letter from George Bowyer, abusing Poerio and applauding the perjured King for "sweeping the streets" with grape-shot in 1849. He says their dungeon at Monte Sarchio was far too good for them. The same journal weeps over the "persecution" of the Phoenix conspirators at Tralee.

AMERICA.

The Europa arrived at Southampton this (Friday) morning, with the New York mails of the 5th instant.

Congress has closed. The Post-office bills were thrown out, and it was feared that an extra session would have to be called to prevent the Post-office service from coming to a dead-lock for want of funds. Robert Maclane is to be sent minister to Mexico.

The ship Vanguard, with 41,000 bales of cotton for Cronstadt, was burning at Algiers, opposite New Orleans, and it was feared would be totally destroyed.

HARWICH ELECTION.—At half-past twelve this day (Friday), Mr. Campbell's committee issued the following statement:—Campbell, 120; Jervis, 119. Mr. Jervis's committee, on the other hand, claim for him a majority of four.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

The final round of Shakespearean revivals is in course of performance at this house to large and fashionable audiences, occasionally varied by Mr. Kean's master-pieces, "Louis XI." and the "Corsican Brothers." On Thursday next, for the benefit of Mr. Kinloch (the treasurer of the house), we observe an announcement of the latter piece, to be followed by "The Midsummer Night's Dream."

THE REV. HENRY HAMPTON.—In consequence of the wish expressed by the Bishop of London, that, on account of the recent inquiry, the Rev. Henry Hampton should retire from the ministry of St. George's Church, Tuffnell-park, Islington, that gentleman declined to officiate last Sunday, and the service was performed by the Rev. Dr. Blomfield, brother of the late bishop. The seat-holders have held a meeting, and have resolved that, in the event of the bishop's refusal to sanction Mr. Hampton's ministering to this congregation in the present building, or in one that may be erected in any other convenient locality, that the committee be instructed to register this place of worship as a free church of England, and to select a gentleman to carry on the services in the strictest conformity with the Book of Common Prayer and Rubric, and to be of such talents as may secure to the seat-holders the high advantages they have hitherto enjoyed under Mr. Hampton's ministry.

THE GOVERNORSHIP OF HONG KONG.—Sir John Bowring's functions as Superintendent of Trade having been merged in those of the Minister lately appointed to Peking, his Excellency will cease to hold the unpaid office of Governor of Hong Kong, hitherto held in conjunction with that of Plenipotentiary and Superintendent of Trade in China. The principal officer at Hong Kong will therefore, for the future, discharge solely the duties of Governor of that colony. The first Governor of Hong Kong under the new system will be Mr. Hercules Robinson, at present Lieutenant-Governor of St. Christopher's, who distinguished himself by his official exertions in Ireland both during and after the famine, and whose services were rewarded by the barren appointment of a West Indian Governorship in 1854. He is now transferred to a position where his administrative talents will have a wider field of usefulness.—*Times*.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

(Farewell Season of Mr. Charles Kean as Manager.)
Last nights of the undermentioned Plays:
LOUIS THE ELEVENTH, on Monday, March the 21st, and (last time) on Friday the 25th.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, on Tuesday the 22nd, and on Thursday the 24th.

HAMLET will be performed (last time) on Wednesday the 23rd.

The Theatre will be closed on Saturday the 26th inst., in consequence of a night rehearsal of **KING HENRY THE FIFTH**.

These plays will not be reproduced, with the exception, perhaps, of one or two representations only towards the termination of the Management in the latter part of the month of July.

The Public is respectfully informed that Mr. and Mrs. C. KEAN's annual Benefit will take place on Monday, March the 28th, when will be produced the historical play of **KING HENRY THE FIFTH**, the last Shakespearian revival under the existing management.

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.

(Under the Management of Mr. Buckstone.)
Mr. Charles Mathews and Mrs. Charles Mathews every evening during the week in the New Comedy and Farce, being the last week but three of their engagement.

To commence on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, at 7, with 11th, 12th, and 13th times, the New Drama of **THE YOUNG MOTHER**. Mr. Buckstone and Miss Emily Allen. After which, 7th time, the New Comedy, in three acts, by Mr. Charles Mathews, entitled **MILLINER TO THE KING; OR, A ROYAL SALUTE**. Characters by Mr. Charles Mathews, Mr. Chippendale, Mr. Howe, Mr. Clark; Mrs. Charles Mathews, Mrs. Foynter, Mrs. B. White, and Miss Eliza Weekes. After which, **NOTHING TO WEAR**, in which Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews will appear. Concluding, for these three nights only, with the Harlequinade portion of the Pantomime of **UNDINE**, in which those unrivalled pantomimists, Arthur Leclercq, Charles Leclercq, Herr Cole, Mrs. Leclercq, Louisa Leclercq, and Fanny Wright will appear.

Thursday and Friday, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews in **MILLINER TO THE KING** and **NOTHING TO WEAR**, preceded by a Drama, in which Mr. Buckstone will appear, and concluding with a Ballet.

On Saturday (by desire) **MILLINER TO THE KING, NOTHING TO WEAR**, and, positively for the last time, in consequence of great preparation for Easter, the entire Pantomime of **UNDINE; OR, HARLEQUIN AND THE SPIRIT OF THE WATERS**.

Stage-manager, Mr. Chippendale.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

(Lessees—Messrs. F. Robson and W. S. Emden.)
Monday, and during the week will be performed **THE PORTER'S KNOT**. Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, G. Cooke, G. Vining, W. Gordon, H. Wiggin, H. Cooper, J. and H. White; and Mesdames Hughes and Leigh Murray.

To conclude with the New Extravaganza, founded on Lord Byron's poem of **MIZEPPEA**. Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, G. Cooke, H. Wiggin, F. Charles, H. Cooper, and L. Ball; Mesdames Wyndham, Hughes, Marston, Cottrell, Bromley, and W. S. Emden.
Commence at Half-past Seven o'clock.

THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE.

Last Week of the Season
(Lessees, Mr. E. T. Smith.)

Triumphant success of the ballad Opera of William and Susan.

Beverley's splendid scene, "The Abode of the Arcadian Fairies."

First time this season of the laughable piece of **Two Heads Better than One**.

Monday, and during the week, the highly successful original English Ballad Opera, entitled

WILLIAM AND SUSAN.

Founded on the favourite ballad of "Black-eyed Susan; or, All in the Downs," with the entirely new and elaborately beautiful scenery by the eminent artist, Beverley.

PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS.

William	Mr. Haigh
Captain Cameron	Mr. Rosenthal
Dickie Dalry	Mr. Mayers
Susan	Miss Lucett
Bella Primrose	Miss Huddart
Admiral	Mr. Morrow

The Words by Mr. T. H. REYNOLDS. The Music by Mr. J. H. TULLY.

To be followed by the laughable piece, written by Fred. Lenox Horne, of

TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE.
Charles Conquest (his original character), Mr. Robert Roxby.

To conclude with the **BALLET DIVERTISEMENT** from the celebrated pantomime of **ROBINHOOD**, in Beverley's splendid scene, "The Abode of the Arcadian Fairies," with real water.

Stage-Manager, Mr. Robert Roxby.

BETHOVEN.

To-morrow evening (Monday), March 21st, MISS ARABELLA GODDARD and M. WIENIAWSKI at the MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS, St. James's Hall.

In compliance with a very general demand, another Beethoven Selection will be given. Among other grand pieces the programme will include the grand Sonata dedicated to Kreutzer, in A minor, for pianoforte and violin. For full particulars see Programme. Sofa Stalls, 5s.; Reserved Seats (Balcony), 2s.; Unreserved, 1s.; places may be obtained at the Hall, 28, Piccadilly; Keith, Prowse, and Co.'s; Cramer and Co.'s; Hammond's; and Chappell and Co.'s, 50, New Bond-street.

MR. AND MRS. HOWARD PAUL.

LAST WEEK at the ST. JAMES'S HALL, closing Saturday, March 26th, of their Drawing-room Entertainment, **PATCHWORK**. Every night (Saturday excepted) up to this date, Mrs. Howard Paul has varied her astonishing "reproduction" of Mr. Sims Reeves by introducing "My Pretty Jane;" and Mr. Howard Paul, as the "Poor Relation," will sing an entirely new song, entitled "Faithless Sarah." Morning representations on Tuesday and the last performance on Saturday, March 26, at Three o'clock. The entrance to the *salle* is in Piccadilly. Stalls, 3s.; Area, 2s.; Gallery, 1s. Commencing at Eight

CRYSTAL PALACE.

Arrangements for Week ending Saturday, March 26th.
Monday, open at 9; Tuesday to Friday, open at 10. Admission, 1s.; Children under 12, 6d.
Saturday, open at 10. Beethoven's Opera of **FIDELIO** will be performed by eminent solo vocalists, supported by an efficient chorus, commencing at 2.30.

The **PICTURE GALLERY** is open for this month only, and contains a large number of Paintings, on view and sale. **LECTURES, BAND, and GREAT ORGAN** daily.
Sunday, open at 1.30, to Shareholders, gratuitously by tickets.

HANDEL COMMEMORATION FESTIVAL,

1859.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

The Directors have the pleasure to announce that this great **CENTENARY MUSICAL FESTIVAL**, the preparations for which have occupied the closest consideration for nearly three years, will take place as follows:

MESSIAH Monday, June 20th.
DETTINGEN TE DEUM, with selections from Belshazzar, Saul, Samson, Judas Maccabeus, &c., Wednesday, June 22nd.

ISRAEL IN EGYPT Friday, June 24th.

Commencing each day at One o'clock.
The Orchestra in the Great Transept, now being extended to the clear width of 216 feet (or double the diameter of the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral), will be rendered capable of accommodating nearly **FOUR THOUSAND CHORAL AND INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMERS**, who will be selected with the greatest care from the various metropolitan, provincial, and continental orchestras, cathedral choirs, and choral associations, presenting a combination of musical executive talent far exceeding any previous undertaking.

The orchestral arrangements for this unparalleled musical congress will be under the direction of the **SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, EXETER HALL.**

CONDUCTOR, MR. COSTA.

Tickets will be issued according to priority of application at the following rates:

Central Numbered Stalls, in lettered blocks.....	Two Guineas and a Half the set for the three days, or if for one or two days' Performances only, ONE GUINEA each.
Seats not numbered, but reserved in side-blocks.....	Twenty-five shillings the set, or Half-a-Guinea each for one or two days' Performances.

Preference will be given to applications for sets of tickets.

The Ticket Offices at the Crystal Palace, and at No. 2, Exeter Hall, are now open for the issue of Vouchers; where the plans of seats may be inspected, and the full programme of arrangements, with block plans, may be had on either written or personal application. No application can be attended to unless accompanied by a remittance of the amount; and all cheques or post-office orders sent to either office, are to be made payable to the order of GEORGE GROVE, Esq., Secretary of the Crystal Palace Company.

By order,

GEORGE GROVE,

March 16th, 1859.

Secretary.

THE VOCAL ASSOCIATION,

ST. JAMES'S HALL.

Conductor, M. BENEDICT,—WEDNESDAY, March 23, at Eight.—**MENDELSSOHN'S "AVE MARIA,"** from the Opera of "Lorely," and **HANDEL'S "ACTS AND GALATEA,"** with Mozart's additional Accompaniment. Principal vocal performers—Madame Catherine Hayes, Miss Louisa Vining, Miss Stabbach, Mr. George Ferra, Mr. Suchet Champion, and Mr. Santley. Band and choir of 400 performers.

Tickets, 2s. 6d. and 5s.; Balcony Stalls, 7s. 6d.; Second Row, 5s.; Sofa Stalls, 10s. 6d. each.—At all the principal music sellers, and St. James's Hall Ticket Office, 28, Piccadilly, W.

HANDEL COMMEMORATION.

TICKET NOTICE.—THE OFFICE AT

EXETER HALL will be opened to the Patrons of the Festival, and the Public generally, from and after TEN O'CLOCK THIS DAY, for the issue of Vouchers for Tickets, which for the present may be selected from the Numbered Plan.

Immediate application is requisite to secure the best seats.

EXETER HALL,

March 16th.

THE ROYAL LITERARY FUND.—The annual meeting of this Society was held on Wednesday afternoon, at the chambers of the Corporation in great Russell-street; Earl Stanhope in the chair. Among the gentlemen present were—Sir H. Ellis, Mr. B. B. Cabell, Mr. Spottiswoode, Mr. Nichols, Sir J. Forbes, Dr. Major, Sir J. Prior, Mr. G. Cruikshank, Mr. Bentley, Mr. Burton Cooper, Q.C., Mr. Newby, Mr. Masters, Mr. Clowes, and Mr. Finlaison. The report of the registrar was read, and stated that the general committee had held eleven meetings since last March, and 1,840 had been granted in relief. The chairman stated that the committee had received a letter from Mr. Charles Dickens, announcing the prospect of a certain offer to the society from a person not at present named on certain terms and stipulations. With these terms and stipulations the committee were not at present acquainted, but expected to learn them fully at an interview which they had agreed to hold with Mr. Charles Dickens and another gentleman a few days hence; and they will then proceed to give them and the whole subject their most careful consideration. In a letter, Mr. Dickens said that he should refrain from attending the society on the fourth anniversary meeting with his friends, but that he did not withdraw his opposition, but left it suspended over the committee.

We this day present No. 1 of a series of articles, reviewing the question of MUTUAL ASSURANCE SOCIETIES in all its bearings, and pointing out the best mode of obtaining relief from the dangerous situation in which the Assurers in Mutual Offices are so unexpectedly placed by the VICE CHANCELLOR KINDERSLEY'S Order relating to the call in a mutual company winding up in his Court.

N.B. Preparations are making to pursue the subject of BANKING in all its branches, grounded on the same indisputable reports and statements as those adopted, with so much success, in the ANALYSIS already issued.

SUBSCRIPTION TO "THE LEADER."
ONE GUINEA PER YEAR,
 UNSTAMPED, PREPAID.
 (Delivered Gratis).

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.
 No notice can be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith. It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. Their insertion is often delayed, owing to a press of matter; and when omitted, it is frequently from reasons quite independent of the merits of the communication. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. A title page and contents to Vol. 9, will shortly be presented to Subscribers.

OFFICE,
NO. 18, CATHERINE-STREET,
STRAND, W.C.,
 The commodious premises formerly occupied by the MORNING HERALD.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1859.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—DR. ARNOLD.

POERIO AND HIS COMPANIONS.

The distinguished men who for ten long years have languished in the loathsome prisons which the King of Naples keeps for convicted patriots have become our guests. For loving Italy and representative freedom, they were, in 1849, torn from their friends, loaded with irons, paraded in mockery before an arbitrary tribunal, and on the evidence of forged documents, and perjured spies, found guilty and sentenced to incarceration in chains for life. A bishop and seven priests are amongst the number who, after prolonged confinement and misery, have reached this land of refuge for the politically destitute: a striking and significant answer to the two classes of bigots, one of whom continually assures us that continental liberalism is synonymous only with irreligion and anarchy, and the other of whom are incessantly trying to persuade us that fidelity to freedom is a virtue unknown in Catholic countries, or in those communities that do not belong to the Anglo-Saxon race. A great many more of the Neapolitan clergy were identified in feeling and conduct, in 1848, with the reforming party. Some of them were butchered

in the tumults provoked by the soldiery of Ferdinand during the first days of reaction; and many have since perished in the places of torment to which that paternal sovereign consigned them. The few survivors of the class of clerical victims are now amongst us; and they will be greeted with a welcome not less cordial and sincere because they adhere, in sorrow and in exile, to theological tenets from which we as a nation dissent.

Of the laymen who compose the majority of the band of exiles recently landed at Cork, a fourth, we understand, were members of the short-lived parliament, elected in compliance with the Constitution which Ferdinand swore to maintain intact and unimpaired in the spring of 1848. Relying upon the public oath of royalty, and the inviolability of person and of speech guaranteed them by law, Spavanti and his colleagues, in the Chamber of Deputies, continued to discharge the duties of their station for some time after the retrogressive designs of the Court had become apparent, after the press had been illegally terrorised into submitting to resumption of the censorship, and the national guard had been dissolved. Instead of deserting their posts precipitately, when danger to their country's newly acquired freedom threatened, or seeking personal ease and safety beyond the reach of a perfidious Court, when it had become evident that the resumption of despotism was in its hollow heart, these truly brave and noble-minded men remained in Naples, sustained each others fortitude by private fellowship, and daily incurred the ever deepening frown of authority by assembling in the Hall of the Orvieto, set apart for the performance of their senatorial duties. Week after week, and month after month, these men, untrained to parliamentary habits, and uncheered by any open expression of popular sympathy, pursued their steadfast course in as exemplary a manner as the men who struggled with Charles I. in our own Long Parliament. If the issue of the struggle in their case was different, let no man therefore speak or think lightly of their capacity or constancy. Nor let it be forgotten that the unscrupulous tyrant with whom they had to deal shrunk for a considerable time before their reproachful gaze, and did not dare to suppress the parliament or to lay violent hands on its members, until the Austrians had reconquered Lombardy, until the Sicilians had been abandoned by Lord Palmerston, and the French had besieged Rome. It was then, and only then, that the cup of royal vengeance was suffered to overflow, and that the last forms and semblances of Constitutional Government were trampled in the dust in the kingdom of the two Sicilies. It was then that the veteran Pope—whom Ferdinand had, after Judas-like embraces, dispatched at the head of a considerable force, to assist in driving the Austrians from Italy, and who but too faithfully sought to obey his instructions—was declared an outlaw and a traitor. It was then that Salicetti, who had been absent on a foreign mission during many months, and whose tendencies towards monarchic institutions were notorious, was driven to desperation by similar injustice, and induced to link his fortunes with those of the republicans of Rome. It was then that Settembrini—a man the least amenable to any imputation of demagogism, faction, or intrigue—was suddenly seized by the police, his house ransacked, his friends refused permission to communicate with him, and he himself, without any definite charge preferred against him, flung into a noisome gaol. He was known to have been the author of the memorable remonstrance addressed to the King in January, 1848, to which were appended the signatures of many thousand citizens, together with the *élite* of the aristocracy and clergy. Through fear, Ferdinand yielded to its prayer, and repeatedly professed himself grateful to its promoters for having pointed out to him the wants and wishes of his people. But Settembrini's crime, in thus setting forth the truth, was not to be forgiven, and when the tide had turned, he was marked out as one of the first who should be destroyed, if possible, by protracted mental and physical torture. It was then that Alessandro Poerio betook himself to the Calabrian hills, and there fell, heroically combatting at the head of a guerilla force against the mercenaries of reaction. His brother, Carlo Poerio, refused to follow his example; he had filled several offices successively in the administration, and his punctilious sense of political honour, combined, no doubt, with his calm discernment of the futility of all

attempts at partial resistance, and the evil that was likely to ensue from furnishing new pretexts for oppressive violence to those in power, caused him not only to abstain himself from all conspiracies and plots, but led him to dissuade others from entering into them. Disdaining flight, though often warned of his danger, he deemed it his duty to remain at Naples, where by his example he felt that he could be of most use in cheering the spirits of his desponding friends, and, as far as in him lay, shaming the court and its advisers into moderation. But all sense of shame had perished; and he, against whom there was not in fact the shadow of a legal ground of accusation, and whose papers when searched afforded not a scrap of evidence whereon to hang a charge, was tried and condemned as a traitor upon the testimony of informers, and on documentary proofs so clumsily forged that even the procurator-general was compelled to abandon them in open court.

It is honourable to the people of the United Kingdom that they should have needed no time to consider how such men ought to be received. They are greeted with the welcome of a nation—a nation which has long since heard of their misfortunes and their miseries, and which, being itself secure and free, mourns over the lot of others who still lie in darkness and in the shadow of political death. As we do not possess any permanent organisation amongst us for showing national hospitality to those who may stand in need of it, we can only resort to such improvised expedients as time and circumstances permit. Men of all classes and opinions, however, seem resolved to provide, during the stay of the Neapolitan exiles amongst us, whatever can contribute to their comfort and ease. In doing so, we only perform a duty to ourselves; for assuredly in this, as in so many other conditions, "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

THE BATTLE OF THE BILL.

THE impending struggle in the House of Commons on the Government Reform Bill is awaited with more curiosity than care by the public at large. There is no prevailing belief that the battle will be a decisive one. Whether the bill be a good or a bad one, it is on all hands felt that its passing would not settle the question, even for the next seven years. Both sides have, indeed, been for some time convinced that the electoral half of the question will have to be dealt with first, and the re-distributive half of it in a subsequent session. Reflecting people do not, therefore, trouble their heads, just now, about the smallness and defects of the territorial map appended to the scheme. They understand clearly that no Minister, however powerful or popular, could, in the absence of pressure from without, persuade Parliament, as now constituted, to adopt any comprehensive or general change in the allocation of seats. The shortcomings, therefore, of the Derbyshire measure in this respect will not essentially mar its chances of progress; while its abstinence from interference with numerous local and individual interests will enhance them materially. But it is not on this point that the battle will have to be fought. It is because, with regard to the suffrage in towns, the bill falls not only short of former Whig biddings, and actual popular expectations, but, what is of still more importance, of that which the least democratic section of politicians can hope will be received as even a temporary settlement, that opposition so varied and formidable seems gathering against the second reading. Even the exclusively Whig Cabinet, to which Lord Grey belonged, proposed in 1852 to go as far as a 5*l*. franchise in boroughs, though that consistently capacious nobleman now thinks fit to object to any lowering of the franchise at all, unless the concession be clogged or balanced by some contrivance for increasing the power of the Government in the House of Commons. Lord Grey was not a member of the Coalition, which, in 1854, proposed a 6*l*. franchise, but Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Lowe held office then, and yet we are told that these right honourable gentlemen meditate saying content to a measure which does not go even that far. And last of all, the cabinet exclusively formed of Carlton Club Conservatives has been unable to hold together in consequence of the conviction, on the part of two of its prominent members, that no plan ought to be propounded which did not extend materially the suffrage in towns. Supposing, then,

that by some means or other the bill should elude the fate with which it is threatened next week, and eventually become law, no rational man can pretend to believe that it would tend to quench agitation. Passed under Whig and Radical protest, and with the confession of more than one of its most distinguished abettors, that it did not go far enough in the direction where most discontent prevails, it would inevitably become a *tête de pont* for future advances, to resist which there will be no pretence of unanimity or moral strength.

This, then, is the real total; and this accordingly is that which the old reform leader of opposition has palpably hit. The contest about the town freeholds is a sort of bye-battle, in which much dexterity and knowledge of parliamentary fence may be displayed, but in which the party assailed has already shown its capacity for manœuvring, and on the issue of which, therefore, it is not expected that anything very material will turn. Mr. Disraeli has intimated his willingness to endeavour to reconcile the theorem of uniformity as between county and town with the preservation of all existing privileges. In Sir Charles Wetherell's time, these would have been talked of as "vested rights;" but "vested rights," like our once "exclusively Protestant legislature," and a good many other things beside, have for a long time been slowly, but steadily, thawing away, and of late we seem to have almost forgotten their fine old Tory names. If Sir Hugh Cairns shall, consequently, be able to frame a set of clauses, which Mr. Disraeli, before the debate begins on Monday next, can offer to move in committee, securing to every freeholder in a town the option of registering as he thinks fit for either county or borough, the pinch of this part of the case will be at an end. The real tug of war will then come where, from the first, we have always prognosticated it would—namely, on the attempt to maintain the town franchise at 10*l*. To give way ostensibly on this point, and adopt Messrs. Walpole and Henley's advice while in office, would, no doubt, checkmate Lord John Russell, and win the game of the bill. What the effect of such a legislative summersault would be on the Conservative party it would be premature to discuss, and very little, we must own, to our present taste or purpose. Mr. Disraeli, perhaps, is not a man to be restrained by such considerations from accomplishing an object on which he has set his heart. He is a man of historical imagination and ambition; and having been often foiled in his attempts to inscribe his name in the roll of our legislative authors, he would, in all probability, not stick at a trifle to succeed in what may possibly be his last effort as party leader. We say his last effort because it has for some time been growing more, and more evident that his party are thoroughly tired of their rider, and that he is equally wearied of them. Ten years of whipping and spurring, curvetting and cantering, on the same hard bleak road, is enough to exhaust any stock of temper or energy. Other fields of ambition are still open to a man of genius, perseverance, and versatility; and, on the other hand, there are few instances in which any political party has thriven or prospered under the leadership of any one man for a longer period than that we have named. In any event, we think it far from unlikely that Mr. Disraeli may cease ere long to perform the onerous and thankless duties of unprejudiced brains gatherer to a prejudiced party.

Should he be unable to persuade his colleagues to yield on the borough franchise, we shall not be surprised to see him throw up the reins in disgust, and leave his place to be filled by that still more adroit and pliant leader to spare, who has hitherto been held on by the Conservative party with a tight leading-rein. Whether they hope to carry a Reform Bill in the present Parliament, or mean to try their future at the hustings, Lord Derby, it is clear, must strengthen himself, somehow, in the House of Commons; and it is needless to waste words to prove what everybody admits, that the man who is *facile princeps* in debate, and profoundly experienced in every branch of public administration, would be an invaluable addition to his Government. It cannot be expected that Mr. Gladstone should take a subordinate office, so that he would commit himself to the fortunes of an already splintered and damaged cabinet, unless he were offered the lead of the Lower House. Were he, however, placed in

the position for which his talents so conspicuously qualify him, he could without inconsistency introduce such modifications in the ministerial plan, as would place the opposition at fault, by bringing the measure in its mean features to what he himself, as a member of Lord Aberdeen's Government, agreed to propose to Parliament five years ago.

Should personal changes, however, at a juncture so critical be deemed inexpedient, and should the 10*l*. occupation franchise be still adhered to as a matter of party honour and party consistency, there yet remains two methods by which it were quite possible to extend materially the city and borough constituencies, without abandoning in terms the tenour of the pending bill. If weekly tenants, paying four shillings rent during a period of twelve months continuously, were entitled to vote, a vast addition would be made to the number of electors, while the same total of pecuniary qualification would still be no less than 10*l*. in the year. Still more important, more liberal, and more just, would be the extended application of the principle of avocation franchises to those skilled artisans and operatives, who could show that they had served a regular apprenticeship to their respective trades. This would indeed be to return to the ancient ways of the constitution, and to renovate that honourable and useful pride in industrial citizenship which has been too much suffered to decay.

HARBOURS OF REFUGE.

LORD CLARENCE PAGET has the great merit of rousing the public to a true sense of the scandalous manner in which its money is wasted. He has not only roused it, he has made it angry, and in an unfavourable mood for listening to fresh demands on its funds, even for purposes of apparent humanity. The commissioners, therefore, appointed to complete the inquiry commenced by the House of Commons into the propriety of constructing harbours of refuge, have made their report, requiring 2,365,000*l*. to be devoted to this purpose at an unfortunate time, though the expenditure is to be spread over ten years. The public is well aware that works of this kind, begun by the Government, are never completed for the sum estimated, and they may see, in the various recommendations of the commissioners, many germs—in letting land, &c.—of that jobbery which clings like a skin to all its undertakings. However strongly, therefore, the recommendation to construct harbours of refuge appeals to our selfishness by money to be saved, and to our sympathies by lives to be preserved, it will not be received without a close scrutiny, nor be accepted if tainted by a suspicion that the public feelings are to be played on to secure additional emoluments and additional patronage for official men. At length the public begins to be sensible that they seize every opportunity to enhance a panic or excite a belligerent zeal whenever that is likely to increase the public expenditure; and we regret to say that the commissioners, most of whom are official men, follow this general custom, and endeavour to enlist the public feelings in favour of their recommendations, by exaggerated pictures of the losses incurred by the want of harbours of refuge.

They commence their report by adopting the statement of the Committee of the House of Commons, that the annual loss of property by casualties on our coast is estimated at 1,500,000*l*., and the loss of life on our coasts is 780 persons annually. They are careful to notice that in 1854 no fewer than 1,549 persons thus perished. They could, however, have obtained the returns of the present year, and have consoled the public by noticing that these losses are decreasing, had they not had a purpose to serve by parading the more alarming statement. From the "Abstract of the Returns made" to the Board of Trade "of the wrecks and casualties which occurred on and near the coasts of the United Kingdom from the 1st of January to the 31st of December, 1858," recently published, we can state that the total number of lives lost on our coasts by casualties to shipping, in 1858, was 340, and the average loss of the three years 1856-8 was not 780, but 464, or not two-thirds of the number put down by the commissioners as annually perishing. Many of these losses, too, were the consequence of the unskilful manner, still in general use, of lowering and clearing boats. "In the majority of cases," says the report of the Surveyor-General of the Board of Trade, "a

boat is no sooner attempted to be lowered or got out in a gale of wind, than it is stove, or, from the fouling of the tackle and running gear, capsized. The number of ships' boats which escape this disaster is very small, compared to the number attempted to be got out in cases of emergency." This cause for the loss of life would be, in a very slight degree, if at all, obviated by expending 2,365,000*l*. in constructing harbours of refuge, and it is in the course of being very materially lessened by improved methods of carrying and lowering, or launching, boats, which will not give rise to one nefarious job, nor take one farthing from the taxpayers.

It is found, too, when the subject is examined, that a large proportion of the casualties recorded, are in no degree occasioned by the want of harbours of refuge; that harbours of refuge would not lessen, if they would not increase, the casualties which do not happen from the want of them; and that improvements in shipping and in seamen would be more likely to save life and property than this proposed application of the public money. Thus, of the number of wrecks and casualties—including damage of all kinds, but excluding collisions—in 1858, only 467 are ascribed to stress of weather, or could in any degree have been avoided by having harbours of refuge; and almost as many, 402, are ascribed to inattention, carelessness, and neglect; to defects in the ships and equipments, and to various other causes. It is to be apprehended that shipowners will be encouraged by harbours of refuge to send ships to sea ill provided or ill conditioned, and that ship captains will be made by them increasingly careless and inattentive to their duties. Should such be the result, harbours of refuge will cause the loss of more lives and property than they will save.

The losses just stated are exclusive of losses by collisions, by fire, and other causes not connected with stress of weather; and the casualties by collisions alone, in 1858, were 301. All of them might possibly have been prevented by greater skill and care in navigating the vessels; and not one of them, probably, would or could have been avoided had 10,000,000*l*. been expended in making harbours of refuge.

Again, when we look at the description of vessels lost in 1858, the tables show us that out of 1,170, 1,018 were vessels of less than 500 tons. The Great Eastern is not the only great ship which has been built in modern times, but it illustrates the general tendency of our shipbuilders to construct year after year bigger and bigger ships. There is good reason to suppose, therefore, that the loss of ships will diminish year by year, as large ships displace small ones. Although steam colliers may not have been successful at first, there is no doubt that even in the coal trade larger vessels, impelled by the more easily commanded power of steam, will be employed. In truth, the competition now existing between railways and shipping for the carriage of goods, is a guarantee that the coasting trade must be conducted in an improved and, indeed, in the cheapest and best manner. Great and continual losses at sea will make the owners of goods prefer to send them by rail. Inefficient coasters must therefore be laid aside, and, as the change takes place, losses on our coasts will be lessened. Ship-building materials, too, are now cheaper than they were; a reduction of the timber duties, which the proposed application of the public money might render impossible, would make them cheaper still, and so the temptation to construct weak ships, and the temptation to fit them out imperfectly, will be lessened, and we shall have fewer wrecks, though we do not spend 2,340,000*l*. in constructing the proposed harbours. The recommendations appeal warmly to all our best feelings, and on this account it is the more necessary that the public should be on its guard against delusion and exaggeration. More national benefit will accrue from the improvements in constructing ships, and in the character of the officers and men of the mercantile marine—now making a rapid progress—than from carrying out the recommendations of Rear-Admiral Hope, Sir Frederick Smith, and the other commissioners.

THE LIBERAL LEADERS.—Lord John Russell and Lord Palmerston abstained from voting on Tuesday, on the motion for the abolition of church-rates.

MINISTERIAL.—The Earl of Rosslyn has accepted the post of Under-Secretary of State of War, vacated by Viscount Hardinge.

MUTUAL ASSURANCE SOCIETIES, No. I. LIABILITIES OF THEIR POLICY HOLDERS.

Is the contest which has been carried on for many years, as to the relative claims to public support of Mutual and Proprietary Assurance Companies, it has been often urged that the members of mutual offices could be regarded in the eyes of the law in no other light than a copartnership of shareholders, who are individually liable for the fulfilment of the society's engagements. So fully recognised has this doctrine been, and so uniformly assented to that for at least forty years it has been a stock commodity in the advertisements of nearly all proprietary companies. There are many precedents for this view of the question. It has been long since ruled that in all mutual societies the parties assured are both individually and collectively liable for any losses which may happen. In the case of *Carlen v. Drury* (1 ves and B. 154), the Lord Chancellor says, "I hold it quite clear that each individual is at law answerable for the amount of the whole debts of the concern." This is certainly distinct and unmistakable, and more recently the liability of policy-holders (*O'Brien v. Lord Kenyon*, 6 Exch: 403) is held to attach, on the ground of participating in the profits of the society.

It is affirmed by an able legal and practical authority, that the risk thus incurred by the assured is of importance only when the funds are small and the society is grossly mismanaged. Fortunately this is quite true, in so far as respects the general experience of recent years, and yet the law is, if possible, in a more seriously unsatisfactory state, as it affects the prospective liability of the assured in the older and wealthier mutual societies. Old companies, like old machinery, become rusty, worn-out, and incapable of performing the services it did in its pristine condition; and those familiar with the more venerable assurance institutions of the kingdom can point to various examples fully illustrative of the truth of this. Symptoms, which are to many of an alarming nature, have for a lengthened period manifested themselves amongst the members of one of the wealthiest and most respected institutions of the day. And although that particular society may be protected by special legal securities against any serious consequences in the event of its dissolution, still there are many others not similarly privileged. It is impossible to over-rate the benefits which have been conferred on the public by mutual societies, and it is, therefore, to be lamented that the state of the law is not more satisfactory in regard to the liability of their members.

These institutions have grown into national importance, and should the principle of limited liability not be shortly extended to all joint-stock undertakings, special legislation should certainly be applied to at least these provident societies. There exist four mutual companies, whose present accumulated funds amount to little short of twenty-millions sterling, and having in the aggregate an annual revenue of upwards of one million. It may be said that with such immense resources the danger of personal liability to the assured is reduced to a shadow. This would, no doubt, be the case were the same energy, tact, and talent, as heretofore, continued to be applied to the administration of their affairs. Experience, however, conclusively proves that the older classes of assurance institutions offer no better guarantee for their stability and perpetuation than many of very recent date. In fact, the older the societies the more complicated and obscure are the nature and extent of their liabilities. A simple cash-statement may, in the infancy of a company, suffice to give a tolerably aporoximative estimate of the position of its affairs, but in a long established society its real position can only be understood by the few who are permitted and are capable of performing a laborious series of highly technical and difficult calculations. It is on this account that full grown societies, although apparently plethoric with wealth, may yet enjoy public confidence for a protracted period, and eventually find that its affairs have become involved in unexpected complications. It is during such a critical juncture that the present state of the law might, if permitted to remain

unaltered, be found to seriously affect the interests of the individual members.

A most remarkable instance of the danger and liability to which the assured in mutual societies are subject, when the institutions become involved, has just been furnished by our courts of law, and although it has arisen in connexion with a new and obviously misconducted, if not a disreputable, undertaking, similar results would, in the present state of the law, follow any other mutual society, however respectably managed, in the event of its affairs becoming embarrassed; and its members would in like manner suffer. Hence the reason of our giving so much prominence to the subject, and begging that such of our readers who may have a pecuniary interest in the question, may not overlook and remain indifferent to their legal position. The following is the notice of the case to which we refer, and on Monday last, the 14th inst., the Vice-Chancellor made the call without any objections or notice of appeal being lodged, showing that his decision was held to be indisputable by the various contributories, and that there is practically no hope of escape for the unfortunate persons who had been deluded into the false step of joining the "Security Mutual," as policy-holders.

"In Chancery.—In the matter of the Joint-stock Companies Winding-up Acts, 1848 and 1849, and in the matter of the Security Mutual Life Assurance Society.—By direction of his Honour Vice-Chancellor Sir Richard Torin Kindersley, the judge to whose court this matter is attached, notice is hereby given that the said judge purposes, on Monday, the 14th day of March next, at 12 o'clock at noon, at his chambers, No. 3, Stone-buildings, Lincoln's Inn, in the county of Middlesex, to proceed to make a call on all the contributories of the said society, who have been settled by his Honour upon the list of contributories thereof, and that his Honour purposes that such call shall be at the rate of 30*l.* for every 1*l.*, and so in proportion for every fractional part of 1*l.* paid by each contributory by way of premium or consideration in respect of the assurance effected by him or her in or with the said society. All persons interested are entitled to attend at such day, hour, and place to offer objections to such call."

The calls made on shareholders of the Western Bank of Scotland, were, in relation to the interest they held in the concern, comparatively nothing to the calls in this instance. 30*l. pro-rata* for every 1*l.* paid to the "Security" to provide a life assurance payable only at death, is a fearful legal retribution and penalty on the want of caution evinced by those who became members. It follows that every person who, it must be admitted through the operation of a prudential motive, effected a policy which, under the most favourable circumstances, could only benefit his survivors, on the average at a period of thirty years hence, must now relinquish all prospective claims, and pay down immediately about the full amount he looked forward to being handed over to his children a generation hence. This is truly a bitter cup, and sympathy must be universally felt for the unfortunate contributories.

It is not our object to dwell on their individual losses, however great, for we believe they will, in common with many other commercial disasters which have recently gained notoriety, and which, although entailing ruin on thousands of families, be the immediate means of leading to important legal reforms in the laws affecting Joint-Stock Companies of all descriptions, but more particularly Assurance Institutions. We have formerly directed attention to the question of Limited Liability, and we now propose, in a short series of articles, to consider the various reasons which may be adduced for and against bringing the most important of all our great financial undertakings within the operation of that law. Limited liability, cheap and expeditious legal proceedings have long been granted and conferred on one class of Provident Institutions, Friendly Societies, which embrace between two and three millions of the most prudent of our working classes; and in these times of popular progress, and when all class distinctions are most rapidly disappearing, there is no sound or valid reason, that while the upper and middle classes are conceding their political rights to the working portion of the community, that the legal facilities enjoyed by the latter should not also be extended to the former. All the possible combinations and diversified interests which can ever arise in assurance companies, and in the legal contracts in which they engage, or are peculiar to them, although of greater absolute value, are neither of so much

relative value to the members, nor of nearly so complicated a nature in their legal contingencies as those entered into by the ordinary benefit and friendly societies. There is, therefore, no proper and really good reason why legal redress and legal responsibility should not be as much facilitated and as well defined in the more aristocratic institution as in that which is the more plebeian. The great power of this kingdom consists in its immense and wonderful commercial enterprise, which has been the harbinger of its provident societies, unequalled in their pecuniary importance by those of all the other nations of the world. We intend to show in a subsequent article that legal restrictions of the most ill-devised nature and which are closely interwoven with our commercial code of laws, have not only here, but in other States, greatly hindered and interfered with our commercial successes, as well as the full development of those provident institutions which have naturally arisen out of that commercial greatness, in order to protect the population of the State against the evils of the pecuniary vicissitudes which are inevitable to a people almost wholly engrossed in a commerce which is necessarily greatly affected, not only by the natural course of the seasons, variations of climate, but by the caprice of statesmen, the conflict of party-politics, diplomatic misunderstandings, and the fortunes of war.

On the present occasion, we have only further to remark, that while we have drawn attention to the most unpleasant legal position in which the policy holders in the older of our mutual societies are placed, it is by no means to be inferred that we regard those insured in younger companies more secure; on the contrary, however safely placed may be the members of a few of the newer societies, it is to be feared there are several in anything but a comfortable condition.

If it were always certain that the management of a society, whether mutual or otherwise, were so watchful of its progress, that they would transfer its business and its engagements to a better established one, prior to any serious liabilities possibly attaching to its policy-holders, the risk of joining a young society would be greatly lessened; but the last ten years' experience shows how little reliance is to be placed on this, even in societies when under the direction of gentlemen of the highest commercial reputation.

Of the vast number of societies established since the passing of, and registered under, the 7 & 8 Vict. c. 110, it will be found that more than four-fifths of them were promoted, conducted, and managed by persons who, either as leading officers or directors, have had no previous experience in the management of Assurance Companies. To any one, therefore, well acquainted with the practical difficulties, the experience necessary, and the technical knowledge, in many instances, required to regulate their affairs, it must appear more surprising that more have not failed than that so few have succeeded. Indeed, so usual has it been for inexperienced persons to become promoters of assurance companies, that we well recollect an experienced, and one of our most laborious actuaries, Mr. Neison, incurring a high degree of obloquy from the officials of new institutions, from having declared before Mr. Wilson's Committee of 1853, that instead of their promoters being enabled to job, or effect beneficial arrangements for themselves, as usually supposed, they were generally soon turned adrift for their incompetence, and forced to push their fortunes elsewhere. All careful observers of our economic institutions are fully alive to this fact. To be enabled to manage a life assurance company well, the principal officer, as a rule, must have natural aptitude for the particular studies, which, when persevered in, qualify him for the duties which devolve on him; and few can master those studies without the previous aid of practical experience in a well conducted society.

There are, no doubt, startling and patent exceptions to this rule, as to every other; but we cannot recall a single instance, within the last fifteen years, of a person of previous fair experience having failed to make successful an institution with the management of which he has been entrusted. This is a circumstance of much more significance than a mere cursory observer will consider it to be; but with the numerous intelli-

gent and generally highly-educated class of young men, who, from the gentlemanly nature of the duties, seek and find engagements in assurance companies, it is imperatively necessary to draw attention to it, that they may be encouraged to persevere in those studies which may place them in the most lucrative, honourable, and influential official positions.

Cheap, facile, and popular legal processes, are immediate and essential conditions for extending the blessings of life assurance, and to obtain these advantages our efforts will be directed; but in the meantime it is obvious that the co-operation of those assured in mutual life offices is necessary to urge the importance of the subject on the law officer of the Crown. The perilous condition of those assured in all classes of mutual life offices is conclusively shown by the decision of Vice-Chancellor Kindersley; and in our subsequent articles on this subject we shall endeavour to show the legal changes necessary in respect, not only to the past transactions of existing companies, but also in regard to those into which they may hereafter enter, and which should form the legal basis on which future mutual companies ought to be established.

We can, in the meantime, only again express our regret that the state of the law should, under any possible circumstances, so seriously and so ruinously compromise the position of any mutual policy-holder.

STREET VIEWS OF ITALY—No. 2.

TURIN.

WHAT can be the law of nature, we have often wondered, by virtue of which the northern and southern districts of a country possess relatively to each other the same invariable characteristics? The north is the abode of energy, and trade, and power—the south is the region of agriculture, and repose, and inactivity. The rule holds good, at any rate, of France, Spain, Germany, and Ireland, not to mention Italy. The fact is obvious; the explanation not equally so. If we found that the further we went due north the more energetic each succeeding population became, there would be no difficulty about the matter. This, however, is not the case; and, therefore, we think that, on the whole, we had better begin by admitting what all social philosophers only acknowledge at the end of their arguments that the fact is so because it is so.

Nowhere, perhaps, is this difference between north and south more apparent than in Italy. As you travel northwards—as we did the other day, across the snow-covered Apennines, over the bleak, dreary table-land which surrounds the city of Turin—you seem to have passed—as, indeed, you have—into another country. The men are small, stunted, and wiry; the women swarthy, and, to speak the truth, uglier than French women, which is saying a great deal. Woful is your disappointment, if you enter Italy for the first time by Piedmont, with your head full of Madonna faces, and Venetian senators, and Claude-like scenes. Driven at last to universal scepticism, you take refuge in the consolatory conviction that the Italy of poets, and painters, and lovers is a sort of Fata Morgana, which vanishes as you approach. Subsequent experience impairs your belief in this negative article of faith, and forces you to the sounder conclusion that Piedmont is no more Italy than Wales is England. There is no good in talking sentiment about an Italy—one and indivisible—when there is no such entity in existence. Italy is not one, and is divided by the eternal laws of fact, and race, and climate. If ever Italy should be made into one country it will be by the southern states becoming subject to some ruling race, whether their name be France, or Austria, or Sardinia.

At every station along the line we took in troops of the militia, who were being called out on active service. They were active, brisk-looking fellows. With them the prospect of war was clearly popular. There were fraternal embraces from grieving relatives, parting glances from admiring friends, and cheers from sympathetic boys. Our road, too, was enlivened by patriotic songs, in which we trust the exalted character of the sentiments made up for the villainous discord of the melodies. When we got to Turin, the military ardour was at its height. Of all dull capitals Turin is probably the dullest, and a little thing, in consequence, goes a long way there. Having seen

long ago all there is to see there—"not" worth seeing in the way of sights—we joined in what appeared to be the almost universal occupation of the Turinese public, and which consisted in following the militia regiments as they walked up and down the Via del Po to the sound of military music. Still with all this playing at war, there was a sort of look about these civic heroes and their attendant satellites, as if they all meant business. Certainly, if we had been officers in the Austrian service, we should have decidedly preferred being in plain clothes if we had happened to meet any of these patriotic gatherings. Wishing to learn the way ourselves to some neighbouring gallery, we made inquiries of the most benevolent-looking amongst the passers by, and, as we conceived, in our very best Italian. Whether long residence in Germany has really given us an Italian accent, or whether, what is more probable, all broken Italian bears a strong family resemblance, we know not, but, from some cause or other, we saw that our friend took us for Germans. There was a sharp and evident struggle in his mind between his national sympathies and his feelings of politeness. At last he shrugged his shoulders, and turned half away with the words, "Tedesco in Piemonte," accompanied by certain whispered ejaculations, which we conceived to have been anything but favourable to the prospects of our eternal welfare. We hastened to undeceive him with the assurance that we were true-born Britons, when immediately his manner changed from polar cold to summer heat; and if we had asked him for his purse instead of for a street direction, we believe our request would have been as freely granted.

The strangest sight at Turin, to one much used to continental cities, was the absence of soldiers. All the regular regiments were on the frontier. About the streets you met, every now and then, with one of the Bersaglieri, in their Crimean-famed costume, and that was all. The sentries at the palace doors were all, as at Genoa, townspeople armed with muskets. The only soldiers of the line we saw on duty were two sentries before the Teatro Regio, where we went to hear "Robert the Devil," and to see the King; however, Victor Emmanuel did not appear, and the singers sung one worse than the other. We should advise the emissaries of Drury-lane, who are prowling through Italy on Mr. E. T. Smith's behests, to avoid Turin and the Teatro Regio, or, in Captain Cuttle's words, "when found to make a note on." In spite, however, of its dullness, and shabbiness, and dirt, there are three good things about Turin: there are few priests, no soldiers, and numbers of book-shops; and even if some of the stall fronts bore an unpleasant resemblance to the shops of our native Holywell-street, we consoled ourselves with the reflection, that in Turin alone, amongst Italian capitals, you can buy the Bible from out of a shop window. The churches, too, bear some proportion to the amount of the population; and, according to the invariable rule in Italy, the number of beggars increases and decreases exactly in the same ratio as the number of churches. Beggars, therefore, are comparatively rare in Turin.

The railroads that bore us towards Tuscany are capitally managed. It is a curious fact, that these are the only continental railroads we are acquainted with where they allow you to take your seat at once, as in England, without boxing you up first, like oxen in a pen. Whether this is a proof of independence and liberty we can hardly say, but we know that the Turinese trains exhibited a perfectly democratic irregularity of arrival and departure. Why should a free railroad never keep its time? The other day we travelled 900 miles by an express train through France, without being at any station a minute before or after our time. In coming next day ninety miles—Dover to London—we were three quarters of an hour late. Surely this is a great fact for Mr. Froude and the admirers of an enlightened despotism.

THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM'S "MEMOIRS."—A letter has been addressed by Sir Watkin W. Wynn to the daily journals, complaining of the "unwarrantable publication" by the present Duke of Buckingham of letters addressed in the strictest confidence to the late Duke by his father, which his Grace has thought fit to give to the world in a mutilated form, without the slightest communication of his intention to the surviving representative or relatives of the writer.

Original Correspondence.

FRANCE.

Paris, Thursday, 61 p.m.

THE NEW PROTESTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT. SINCE I last wrote, the long-expected declaration of the French Government, which was to restore confidence in the maintenance of peace and conciliate the estranged sympathies of the world, as well as disarm "united" Germany, has made its appearance, and anything more disastrous in result it would be difficult to imagine. When a Government makes the most solemn asseverations possible, and they are met, on the part of its subjects, with unmistakeable signs of increasing and deeply-rooted disbelief, that, I presume, must be disastrous to its credit and moral position. When the *Moniteur* opened the dullest portion—that is to say, the commencement—of its non-official columns to the startled and dreary platitudes of the Imperial scribe, the Three per Cents. fell a half per cent., and even Bank Stock, the most stable of all investments, gave way, and the depreciations in the value of public securities cannot be interpreted, I presume, to signify anything else but a proportionately increased distrust in the security of the declarations of the Government communicated in a "non-official" manner to the public. Whether deeds are known to have been performed in secret which belie fair-spoken words, or whether public suspicion is excited merely because the Government doth protest too much, I know not; but one thing is certain—namely, the oftener and more energetically the authorities affirm their intention to maintain peace, the less they are believed. Were such a thing to happen in private life it would constitute an unpardonable and deadly affront, tantamount to openly proclaiming a man a liar at once. I doubt much if Lord Thurlow's coarse, but admirable characteristic of corporate or aggregated bodies of men, would justify in the present instance the passing by unnoticed the stigma affixed to the Government by public opinion, for it is an assembly of individuals having neither a body to be kicked nor soul to be damned; but is the willing unreasoning agent of an individual. In the governing task of France, Ministers are the mere agents, while the Emperor is the principal—so, at least, say the constitution, and all the partisans of the present régime. Whence, I presume, that if discredit attaches to the agent, it is only as far as he stands in the place of the principal, and whatever slight or insult is addressed to him is intended for the personage he represents. Now, I apprehend there is great danger in this. For if the Emperor should be led to fancy that his personal honour was engaged, or that a slight was intended, his personal feelings would be roused and override all other considerations, rendering him deaf to the inspirations of wisdom, or even of personal safety.

Fine Arts.

THE PORTLAND GALLERY, REGENT-STREET.

THE private view of this very interesting gallery of modern artists' productions takes place this day, and the general public are admitted on Monday. Although it is to be deplored that men of mark, even among those who have made it here, will abandon, what we might term their artistic *alma mater*, and trust themselves wholly to the tender mercies of exhibition autocrats, who permit no divided allegiance, there is still, we are glad to say, no falling off, but the contrary, in the year's crop of risen, rising, and promising painters. Young artists can here command, at least, the certainty of being seen. If here condemned, they can have no appeal, and may, without vainly looking back, adopt other and safer callings; if here approved, they may as safely accept the oracle as an encouragement to new labour. We cannot note, without regret, the absence of Lander, Oakes, and other ornaments of former exhibitions, one of whom, and not the least distinguished among Scottish painters, death has moved from among us—but we are glad to see upon the walls and screens of the spirited little association the "makings" of a host of reputations. The landscape painters are in greatest force. Hulme's "Newark Abbey, Surrey," a beautiful work; Raven's bits of heath and clover are marvellous in their way; and all readers who may know these men by their works are, by this time, aware that their way is the highway of nature. A Ruskin might revel in Moore's scenes from Clovelly, of which, especially, that with the background of hyacinths is a specimen of loyal, unaffected industry. Pettitt's choice of subjects is, as usual, exceptional, though they are finely painted. Pictures in the same school by Pitt, Hayes, Naish, and Adams, will not fail to be admired. In figures, we find Dukes and

Underhill, with their usual points of merit, and their usual shortcomings, which, though they are too clever to ignore, they are too contented to remedy. "A Picnic," by Fisk, is remarkable for its elaborate background; a twelvemonth's work, perhaps, marred by figures that destroy it, and pain the spectator. Two clever works by Burgess, one of which, "Out of Town," is a long way ahead of this painter's work shown here last year; a clever Houghton; two by John Morgan; two Rossiter's (a painter whose future is a certainty), will all prove attractive. A work by Morten (a P.R.B.) is as remarkable for its dirty handling and bad drawing as for its fine feeling for colour. Lewis has some perfect bits of old stone-work; and while the "commonplace completeness" of Mr. Ruskin is amply represented, the Exhibition is, on the whole, to liberal minds, satisfactorily progressive.

Mr. Jacob Bell, Esq., with praiseworthy liberality, has lent the Marylebone Literary and Scientific Institution, of which he is the President, his collection of pictures, containing, probably, some of the very best specimens of modern English masters. Among the gems of art in it may be mentioned "The Maid and the Magpie," "Shoeing," "The Sleeping Bloodhound," "Alexander and Diogenes," and several more by Sir Edwin Landseer; "The Horse Fair," by Rosa Bonheur; "The Derby Day," by Frith; and a host of other celebrated works by F. R. Lee, R.A., T. S. Cooper, A.R.A., E. M. Ward, R.A., A. Egg, A.R.A., G. B. O'Neill, A. Elmore, R.A., the late W. Collins, A.R.A., C. R. Leslie, R.A., &c. The collection will be on view from Friday, March 25th, till Saturday, April 9th, inclusive, and the proceeds will be devoted to the funds of the Institution.

Theatres and Entertainments.

ENGLISH OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

On Friday last, as we were going to press, her most gracious Majesty and the Prince Consort were enjoying the delightful strains of Auber's "Diamans de la Couronne," of which Mr. Tully's English version was produced that evening, by royal request, with all the superb appliances at the disposal of the management. The exertions of the managerial stars were rewarded by royalty with no stinting hand; and, we may add, the honour won was fairly earned. The great feature of the performance were Rodé's *air varié*, which Miss Pyne introduced at the close of the opera, the duet between *Catarina* and the *Countess*, and the interpolated English ballad, "Oh, whisper what thou feelest," which Mr. Harrison sings with so much taste, and so little drawback of any kind, as to warrant hearty commendation. Messrs. Corri, St. Albyn, and Honey (the *buff* value of the former we think more than do many of our contemporaries) lent efficient aid towards the *ensemble*, which Mr. Mellon and his highly trained followers of the orchestra completed. On Monday last Flotow's elegant little work, "Martha," for which all the talent and exertion of this excellent company failed, at Drury-lane, to extort due appreciation from middle-class audiences, was performed for the benefit of Mr. W. Harrison. This artist's *Lionel* we take the liberty of imagining to be his best part. The graceful ballads allotted to it are more thoroughly within his range, and afford room for those inflections of feeling he is so well able to supply. The troops of friends who thronged the house on the occasion under notice, and who encored every solo enthusiastically, may hardly, perhaps, be relied upon for unbiased comment; but we may venture to add that there was applause enough elicited from the genuinely critical to warrant the reproduction of the opera during the next season of this management.

Miss Pyne takes her benefit to-night as *Catarina*, when we need hardly say a well-deserved operatic ovation may be expected to wind up a campaign, which is supposed (and, for our fraternity we may add, the wish fathers the thought) to have been one unbroken success. The Pyne and Harrison management have, to use a sporting expression, "made all the running" with English opera. On two or three particular occasions they have brought foreign works to the front, but having declared to win with a native composer, they have done so. They have been undeviating from their engagements to their supporters, and have liberally staked upon their venture—both grand recommendations in the eyes of a sport-loving public. They have merited the good opinion of their fellow professionals, by showing how an immense number of mouths could be filled well and regularly, during what has been before a dull season. Having organised, they have kept together a numerous and splendid band, under a native conductor, whom his peers have already placed far above our criticism, and a no less numerous and effective array of chorists. The arrangements—heretofore deemed impossible—for the real comfort of their visitors which were

originated, we believe, and have been certainly carried out by their hardworking and popular right hand, Mr. Edward Murray, must, last not least, remain a permanent feather in their managerial cap. Immunity from boxkeepers' fees; free play-bills; numbered and retainable seats; regulated charges for attendants, have here succeeded those arbitrary claims which were once the curse of constant, and the terror of occasional playgoers. The example has found imitators; no loss has been found to result to managers; and we hope soon to number playhouse extortions among things of the past, though not the recollection to whom the public were indebted for the grand step towards their abolition.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.

The programme of Mr. Gye's ensuing season is now before us, and furnishes the following facts:—The opening night is that of Saturday, the 2nd of April. The principal artists engaged are Mesdames Gristi, Bosio, and Tagliafico; Mesdemoiselles Didicie; Marai; an *aurora borealis* from St. Petersburg; Mademoiselle Lotti de la Santa; and Mademoiselle Delphine Calderon, from the Venice Opera. Among the gentlemen are Signori Mario, Luchesi, Rossi, Neri Baraldi, Gardoni, Tamberlik, Ronconi, Tagliafico, &c. Mr. Costa is to conduct. Mr. William Beverley, and the no less eminent painters Grieve and Telbin, are engaged for scenery. "Don Giovanni," "Martha," "La Gazza Ladra," and the "Giuramento" of Mercadante, are the operas announced as certainties; and, by way of promise, the acquisition of leave to perform a yet unfinished work of Meyerbeer's, is hinted at with proper reserve. The band and chorus, of late so admirably kept in training at this house, will, of course be available, and, we presume, are continued. A new luxury will, it is hoped, be placed at the disposal of visitors, by the completion of the new Flower Hall, which it is in contemplation to use as a kind of lobby. Its fairy-like girders are already in course of erection, and the glazing will speedily follow.

THE VOCAL ASSOCIATION, ST. JAMES'S HALL.

At the "undress concert" of this Society, on Tuesday evening, the selection, with the exception of a violin solo by Herr J. David, and a pianoforte fantasia on Irish airs by Miss Ward, consisted of vocal music only. Of the former of these instrumental works we are, we candidly regret to say, in no position to speak: of the latter we may observe that the composer of the music, M. Benedict, has combined a charming reverence for the themes, "Oh believe me, of all those endearing young charms," and "the Minstrel Boy," with an elegant, but not oppressive, amount of musical tracery; while the fair young pianist, Miss Ward, displayed accuracy and thorough freedom of fingering, which mark her as a player of considerable promise. To speak of the vocal pieces—Mrs. Torrington's voice, in Mendelssohn's, "Now the dreary winter flies"—a rapid and graceful song—showed some throat notes of the true "nightingale" quality. Calcott's "Friend of the brave," sung by Mr. Litchfield, was dreary. Miss Chipperfield's voice, in "La ci darem," showed adequate flexibility and sweetness. The quintett from "Così san Tutte" was well executed, though we hardly enjoy it in the concert-hall. This seems for Mozart's gay strains hardly a happy medium between the bustle of the stage and the repose of the drawing-room, in either of which atmospheres we can enjoy them more. In Donizetti's "Mille Volti," which contain several beautifully expressive passages, Miss Gordon's voice was heard to advantage. We can hardly encourage the repetition of "The Groves of Blarney" in its new disguise of the "Bay of Dublin"; but Miss Horder, whose courage and flexibility were severely tested by M. Benedict's elaborate "Skylark," is worth encouragement to persevere, and to restrain her ambition. The solo encore of the evening was justly given to the pure and unassuming execution by Miss Saunders of the solo, "Beautiful May," from Macfarren's "May-day." It is a fascinating melody; it was very nicely sung; and all present enjoyed it. First in order, and least in interest, among the part songs was "The Alpine Horn" of Franz Abt; after which a glorious madrigal, by old Luca Marenzio, was a relief. A part song, by Hutton, "Jack Frost," phrased here most legitimately and there most eccentrically, rich in harmony, and delicately sung, was enthusiastically re-demanded. Esser's part song, "The Morning Stroll" (with piano accompaniment), a strictly loyal composition, admirably, and even imposingly, given by the principal male vocalists, was, to us, the best of all the long concert, which was, in a few words, none the less delightful to a large audience of sympathetic amateurs than to the strong body of singing members, by whose unassisted efforts it was carried to a very satisfactory conclusion.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.

The great success which attended the performance of Mendelssohn's "Ave Maria," by the Vocal Association, has induced the directors to repeat the work on Wednesday evening, March 23rd. Handel's "Acis and Galatea" (with Mozart's additional

accompaniments) will also be performed. The band and choir, under the direction of M. Benedict, will number 400 performers.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

A new three act comedy, entitled "The World and the Stage," by Mr. Palgrave Simpson, was produced here on Saturday last. The author has tilted with infinite stage success against the cordon of suspicion with which society has surrounded the virtue of theatrical ladies, and has aimed at thawing the "cold shoulder" which is somehow the result. He has written apparently *con amore* upon the theme, and has produced a work which is confidently predicted to take the town by storm after Easter, and to hold the stage as a favourite for years to come. Though it is almost considered necessary to have at hand, or invent a French original for every dramatic performance produced in London, we confess we are at a loss for one on this occasion. The authors of "Masks and Faces" have handled the same subject it is true; and for all we know every coulisé haunter on town may have thought of it as a likely one to take with the spooney portion of the public, and to catch the fancy or display the talents of the Woffington of the hour. But originality in story, and the merit due to its treatment, must be conceded for once to the British author who has been fortunate in finding such able interpreters of his pretty sentiments as Miss Sedgwick, and the rest of the talents at the Haymarket. The prejudice against which he contends, may or may not be founded in reason; it is certainly often carried to excess—but this is no place for such questions. An author may have had two motives in raising them. He may have aimed, for the manager's sake, at the collection of innumerable folks into a playhouse; and, for his own, at the cynical amusement derived from watching how a well constructed and acted play will blind the said multitude to shaky premises and shaky conclusions. But not being bound to analyse these motives, we will quit, for the present, the moral of the tale, and, according to custom, condense, as well as we may, its plot, for our reader's benefit:—*Miss Somers* (Miss Amy Sedgwick), a poor and noble-minded girl of gentle birth, has become a famous actress. Her sister, *Lady Castlecrag* (Miss E. Ternan), is, as her name imports, a lady of position. The latter's husband, *Sir Norman Castlecrag* (Mr. Rogers), is a snob, who objects to his actress-sister-in-law, denies his lady her society, forbids her his house, and arms society against her. The poor heroine, though too devoted to her calling to abandon it, is attached enough to her own flesh and blood to feel acutely the insults cast upon her. She is subject, moreover, to the detestable gallantries of a fashionable gentleman and his attendant gent, well and amusingly played by Mr. W. Farren and Mr. Compton. She is beloved by a model sweetheart, *Leonard Ashton* (Mr. Howe), and watched over by a sort of servant-monster or humble satellite, *Daniel Develap*, into whose representation Mr. Buckstone threw all his vast comic power. Her cup of sorrow seems nearly full when she discovers that her own persecutor, *Malpas*, is also assailing her sister's honour. She defeats his schemes, and saves the baronet's wife; but, in doing so, falls herself under damning suspicion, and loses her lover. The pile of agony thus accumulated must, of course, come down sooner or later; and its fall is effected by the repentance of *Malpas*, the *roué*, whose abhorrent intention (which should hardly, we think, be depicted on the stage) against the honour of the sisters is followed by a generous extrication of both from trouble.

Miss Amy Sedgwick is an actress of present power and some promise. Mr. Buckstone, Mr. Compton, and Mr. Farren are everything, or nearly everything, that can be desired in their respective lines. The play was so good, and the immense audience (it was Miss Sedgwick's benefit) so good-natured, that anything but vast success was out of the question. Its "tag" consisted of the following lines, which were delivered by the heroine:—

Oh! as the actress, friendless, and alone,
Seeking the "spark divine" she'd call her own,
Devotes her sleepless nights, her anxious days,
To weary study, wearier care, for praise;
The world nor knows, nor heeds her struggles bold,
'Gainst poverty, temptation, lures of gold;
Whilst hands applaud, the breath of scandal rails,
The public lauds, but prejudice assails.
Dear are the plaudits that ensure her fame,
But dear the world's esteem; and she would claim
From the more generous spirit of the age
A kinder feeling 'twixt the WORLD and STAGE.

They met with rapturous applause. But let us submit, in all good-nature, if there are any in the profession who feel the absence or the want of this "kinder feeling," that no unimportant step towards it might be taken from within the green-room. We allude to the more regular adoption of their proper style by married ladies. Have matrons who designedly wear their maiden-names behind the lamps, like any article of dress or decoration, any cause of complaint if they are sneered at by the

Lucretias of the boxes or insulted by the *Malpases* of the coulisse? Among the evils that actors and actresses of known merit and good repute meet with, as far as we can see, at the wicked world's hands, are sympathy and patronage. Both these guerdons are, from the cynic's point of view, bad enough; but ordinary folks in business can't live without either. The cold shade may, it is true, be cast upon players by managers, and the world may know them not; but the open field once gained, we never saw the happy holder of "the spark divine" who could not secure "the world's esteem" as well as the fame securing plaudits, if deserved.

A new comedy of small power, but displaying Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews to much advantage, in Louis XV. costumes of great beauty, was produced here on Monday evening. It was, we must confess, a dreary affair, as will happen when a good deal of boisterous fun behind the footlights fails to infect the audience before them. Mrs. Mathews as *Nanette Didier*, the court milliner, who becomes a Countess despite the machinations of the *haute noblesse*, was energetic and occasionally effective. Mr. Mathews (the author), in providing situations and good things for his better-half, had left himself so little to do, that he could not add materially to the slight effect produced. In Mr. W. Brough's "Nothing to Wear," an old farce with a new face, the couple were more successful. The unctious wherewith our old favourite always assumes and slips through the pecuniary difficulties set down for him, and the barbarian delight with which the British public welcome him as the representative of anybody "hard-up," assured, before the rise of the curtain, the success of an after-piece, in which the philosophy and humours of pawning, or "popping" are the subjects treated. All the jolly laughs, and all, or nearly all, the genuine applause of the evening were elicited by, and liberally bestowed upon this trifle.

LYCEUM THEATRE,

If proof were wanting that Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams were very clever folks, we should point to the bills of the Lyceum, in which they figure from top to bottom every night in six, ten, or a dozen characters, it is immaterial which, but unlike the partridge of the gourmet, seem never to pall upon the appetites of their admirers. Week after week this goes on. New pieces for the illustration of the Barney Williamses are weekly produced; and as the theatre is open, and its expenses must be paid, we feel sure audiences must come from somewhere. But without entering upon the speculation, how, whence, and why, let us say that the new and original comedietta, "Law for Ladies," the novelty of the present week, is as a dramatic composition beneath contempt. It is of the order of entertainment which Mr. Love, the Polyphonist; Mr. Slowman, the Improvisatore; Mr. Brunton, the comic vocalist, and all that pleasant race of folks term, with humility and propriety, a "monopolylogue," or piece wherein an awful deal of talk is done by one person. The "polylogist" of the Lyceum house is Mrs. Williams, who, as an American maiden of eighteen, has an objection either to remaining single, under the provisions of her father's will, until she attain the mature age of thirty, or to forfeiting certain 30,000 dollars. Having fallen in love with a most gentlemanly young lawyer (for whom Mr. G. Murray seems to have studied from an Anglo-Catholic curate, or Mr. Wigan, of the Olympic), she, by his aid, and the assumption of a variety of disguises, so works upon the nerves of her guardian, *Graspall* (Mr. Barrett), as to induce his resignation of the trust. In the character of a German organ-grinder, as a silly romp, as a bleating hobbledoy, and especially as a Yankee girl of superior smartness from "Tother side of Jordan," Mrs. Williams showed all her versatility of talent; and having secured our own applause in a comic song entitled as above, and set, after the fashion of the revivalists, to a variation of an old hymn tune, she, as may be imagined, had no difficulty in winning it by wholesale from the general company, who have less often than ourselves the pleasure of attending the theatre under notice.

MR. MASON JONES' ORATIONS.

We had the pleasure, on Tuesday, of hearing an Irish orator. Mr. T. Mason Jones, of Trinity College, Dublin, who lectured by heart at Willis's-rooms, on the fruitful theme of "Curran and the Irish Bar," has a deep rich voice, a pleasing brogue, an impressive face, and a store of information upon his interesting subject. He told, in a nice manner, an interesting round of facts, illustrating the lives, the joys and the sorrows of Erskine, Plunkett, Shiel, O'Connell, Emmett, Fitzgerald, and Wolfe Tone. And, to conclude, we never less regretted a couple of hours devoted to a *seance* of the kind. On Tuesday Mr. Jones speaks on Grattan and the Irish Parliament; and we shall, if possible be there to hear him.

EXPLORATIONS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

At a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society this week, Sir Roderick Murchison in the chair, a paper was read, entitled "Explorations in South Australia," by Messrs. Babbage, Warburton, Stuart, and others, communicated by the Right Hon. Sir E. B. Lytton, her Majesty's Secretary for the Colonies. The accounts of the above-mentioned explorations were embodied in several voluminous documents, extracts from which were read. The discoveries of Mr. Babbage were confined chiefly to the tract between Lakes Gairdner and Torrens; he, however, followed to the western shore of the latter lake to about lat. 30 deg. S., where it terminates, and proceeded northward, meeting with a lake which he named Gregory. Major Warburton examined the south-west shores of Lake Gairdner, returned by Coeyana (near Sibeaky Bay) on the west, and then pursued an easterly direction to Port Augusta; starting from that place northwards in search of Babbage he followed his track to Lake Gregory, where they met. Mr. Stuart, the companion of Captain Sturt, in his memorable expedition to the Central Desert in 1845, started with only one white and a black man, five horses, and a scanty supply of provisions, from Elizabeth Camp (31 10 deg. S.), proceeded northerly to lat. 29 20 deg., where he crossed a large gum creek in which fish were seen, and continued in a north-west direction, passing several other gum creeks, taking their rise in the long range named, by Governor Sir R. M'Donnell, Stuart Range; their range extends in a north-west direction, broken more or less here and there, but still forming a continuous water-parting from along the west shore of Lake Torrens to lat. 28 deg. S., and long. 133 deg. E. He then struck a westerly course for forty miles over a good country, with plenty of grass, turning then south-westerly, afterwards southerly, to Denial Bay, on the coast, and thence to Port Augusta, pursuing throughout a zig-zag course. Mr. Stuart penetrated in a straight line 240 miles to the west of Mr. Babbage's camp at the Elizabeth, having traversed by various routes nearly four degrees of longitude and three of latitude north of that position. It would be difficult to overrate the importance of these discoveries, as it seems probable, to quote the words of Governor M'Donnell, that at least from 12,000 to 18,000 square miles of country, available hereafter for pastoral purposes, have been opened up by Mr. Stuart's explorations. One result of all these explorations is, that the shape of Lake Torrens has been entirely changed; instead of preserving a horse-shoe form, as was supposed, it is found to be divided into several detached lakes. The reading of the paper was followed by a very animated discussion, in which the Chairman, Captain Sturt, the Bishop of Saunders, Mr. Crawford, and Professor Owen, took part. The last speaker directed attention to the paucity of information in the department of natural history in such explorations, which he attributed to the fact that the major part of the animals were of nocturnal habits; consequently search for them should be made during the night. Professor Owen also alluded to the peculiar provision in the Australian type which enabled them in seasons of drought to convey their young to distant waterholes.

LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—On Tuesday a public meeting of the Society was held in the Egyptian Hall, Mansion House, for the purpose of promoting the extension of Missionary efforts in the Chinese empire. The Lord Mayor presided, supported by the Earl of Shaftesbury and other gentlemen and clergymen. Resolutions in support of the objects of the meeting were proposed and unanimously agreed to, and the meeting separated, after a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MOON.—An article has appeared in a very serious foreign contemporary to the following effect:—"Suppose that a successful attempt were made to obtain a surface for the photographic picture perfectly free from irregularities capable of distorting the most imperceptible lines of a photograph. Suppose, also, that on this surface a photograph of the moon were taken with every precaution; if this picture were examined under a very powerful microscope the most minute details would become visible, and if the instrument possessed sufficiently high magnifying power you would be able to see living beings, if there are any residing in that luminary. This is one of the applications of photography to astronomy; and it has been said that an Italian *savant*, after trying for six years to obtain this result, has succeeded, and has recently been able to obtain pictures of the moon on which figures of naked animals are depicted, one species of which bore a great resemblance to human beings. . . . It is certain that important discoveries may be arrived at by this means; the great difficulty being to find a substance on which to take the picture, the surface of which shall be so perfectly even as to receive the luminous image without in the slightest degree distorting its most minute details.—*Photographic News*.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.

On Thursday the annual meeting of the friends and supporters of this truly national and philanthropic institution, was held at the London Tavern, Sir John S. Pakington, Bart., M.P., First Lord of the Admiralty, in the chair. The meeting was influential and most numerously attended.

Mr. Lewis, the Secretary, read the annual report, which stated that the society now possessed eighty-one life-boat establishments, thoroughly equipped in every way; fifteen of which had been added during the last twelve months. The life-boats of the institution had been instrumental in saving one hundred and six persons during the past year. They had also been off on twenty-nine occasions to the assistance of vessels showing signals of distress. It appears, from the report of the Board of Trade presented to Parliament, that the number of shipwrecks on the coasts of the United Kingdom during the past year, has been nearly the same as that of the previous year—1,170 in all—from which 343 lives had unhappily perished. It was, however, gratifying to find that the total number of lives saved from shipwrecks, by life-boats and other means, on our coasts during the same period, was 1,555. The total number of persons saved from shipwreck since the first establishment of the National Life-boat Institution, and for rescuing whom the committee had granted honorary and pecuniary rewards, was 10,902. The lives of 427 persons from sixty-four wrecks on the coasts of the British Isles had been rescued during the past year, through the instrumentality of the life-boats of the institution, and of other means; in acknowledgment for which services, one gold medal, twenty-three silver medals, thirty-seven other honorary distinctions, and 9524 had been voted. Since the formation of the institution it had expended on life-boat establishments 28,061*l.* and had voted eighty-one gold and 629 silver medals for distinguished services for saving life, besides pecuniary awards, amounting together to 11,651*l.* From the financial statement it appears that the institution had expended, on new life-boat carriages and boat-houses and their equipments, 8,051*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*, and 1,203*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* for exercising the crews of its life-boats; making altogether a total of 9,255*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* This great and national work had, however, only been accomplished by the society incurring further liabilities to the extent of 3,047*l.* With so sacred an object in view as the rescue of our fellow creatures from an appalling death by shipwreck, it might be supposed that the National Life-boat Institution had claim which would come home to the heart of everyone in this great maritime country. The report concluded by earnestly soliciting the support of all those who are able to render it.

The report having been adopted, various resolutions pledging the meeting to renewed exertions on behalf of the benevolent objects of the institution having been carried, the proceedings terminated with the usual complimentary vote of thanks to the chairman.

NOVEL PARISIAN SPECULATION.—A Paris correspondent describes a new butchers' establishment at the corner of the Rue Tronchet and the Rue Neuve-Mathurins. "Upwards of 30 metres in length, it is entirely filled up with white marble on supports of porphyry. The counter is also of white marble on silver caryatides. A fountain of water, six feet in diameter, plays in the centre of the shop, and vases of flowers and shrubs are disposed about with a certain degree of taste. Thirty-nine persons are employed in the establishment, which offers each morning for sale 20 oxen, 20 calves and 60 sheep. The great novel feature of this establishment is this while professing to sell cheaper than any other shop in Paris it delivers with each parcel of meat a ticket which entitles the buyer to a share in the profits at the end of the month. It is reported that thrifty fathers of families are now forcing their appetites to eat enormous quantities of meat, in the idea that they are thereby laying up portions for their daughters. I have not sufficiently verified the calculations upon which the new system is based to be able to say whether large customers will pay nothing and get something to boot—but this result is expected."

NAPOLÉON AND HIS GUNS.—A Paris letter says:—"The French Emperor continues to be assiduous in his attendance at Vincennes, following the experiments that go on there with the utmost interest. The other day, it is said, he passed several hours in witnessing some skilled firing at marks; and when it was concluded, said to the officers in command, 'Ah, I see you are ready.' The observation, it is declared, was uttered almost unconsciously, as though addressed more to the speaker's own thoughts than to the persons around. The impression conveyed by the words was, that war had been decided upon; and this opinion, it is declared, is pretty generally entertained in the army."

INDIA AND INDIAN PROGRESS.

ONE STEP BACKWARDS.

Among the energetic measures taken during the revolt, was the appointment of a large body of English residents in Bengal as "honorary magistrates," in other words, justices of peace, who rendered most essential services, according to the opinion of the authority under whom they acted—the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. It admits of no doubt that many districts were preserved from ravage and insurrection by their exertions, while in others the cause of peace, order, and progress was maintained.

It was not in the nature of things that appointments so abnormal should be viewed by the mandarins and their adherents without horror. The native officials have fortified the prejudices of the European officials, and the latter have met with sympathy from those fossil specimens of Indian retrogradation, which may still be discovered in some of the offices in Leadenhall Street, and the last of which it is to be hoped will ere long be placed in the Museum. It must be remembered that all the honorary magistrates were "interlopers," that they do not drink their champagne and chablis with "us," that they did not move with "us" in the first circles of exclusivism in beleaguered Lucknow, and (which is truly dreadful) many of them belong to that abhorred set, the indigo planters, who have fomented that disturbance of mandarin rule, which we now witness, betokening the fall of that body, and the establishment of the Government of India in the hands of the ablest men, whether Indian or homebred, whether covenanted, uncovenanted, military, or political, European, Eurasian, or native. The mandarins have designated the indigo planters as oppressors of the natives; the indigo planters have exposed the inefficiency and deficiencies of the civil service. It was, therefore, to be expected that the mandarins would, at the first opportunity, make a stand for the maintenance of their order, and the suppression of the interlopers; but we had hoped they would receive no countenance from the statesmen of India, and we are concerned, indeed, to find a rumour already prevalent, which we have alluded to elsewhere, that the instructions have already arrived in India to abolish the honorary magistracies.

It is publicly affirmed that the measure does not originate with the Bengal statesmen, for they have reported their approval of the honorary magistrates, but that it emanates from home, under positive orders. A reason is alleged for this proceeding, which is, that the honorary magistracies make an invidious distinction between Englishmen and natives. This can be no real reason, because, as pointed out by the *Englishman*, the invidious distinction itself could have been abolished, by appointing competent natives as honorary magistrates. The real reason is that the existence of honorary magistrates invades the monopoly of power in the hands of the privileged parties, and prevents the extension of patronage.

So far from the abolition of the honorary magistracies being any concession to the natives, it is one of the most serious blows that has been aimed at their political advancement. The prevalence of the old system would exclude the natives generally, and more particularly the upper classes, from power; and the honorary magistracy was one step provided for native progress. The mandarins profess the most devoted affection for the natives, whom they overshadow with their protection, and for whom they have taken the watchword, "India for the Hindoos;" but their system has had the tendency and the result of destroying the political rights and political independence of the whole of the upper classes of India—a most fatal measure in the peculiar state of society which the country has now reached. As a compensation, they raise up a new set of creatures of their own, in the shape of the *Amlah* and native officials, who propagate and preserve the ancient oppressions of the country, and are the most efficient enemies of individual independ-

ence or general progress. The aims of those who have been assailed as the enemies of the natives—as the "foreign party"—are very different. The statesmen in the India House, and in the Governments and Commissionerships of India, agree with their countrymen in seeking to elevate the native. They do not wish to keep up the sovereign claims of individuals which are prejudicial to the community; but they are earnest in providing for the political education and general advancement of the natives.

One most important measure, which is now taking effect throughout India, is the appointment of municipal commissions and local road boards; and although these have met with the bitter hostility of the monopolists, they are the means of creating a spirit of energy and independence among the higher classes of the community. As a matter of course, Englishmen must be the leading men in these commissions and boards, because they understand the course of business, just as they are the leading men in the direction of banks, assurance offices, and other public companies, on the like grounds, and because by such co-operation they train up a number of natives in habits of business. The honorary magistracy is another stage of preparation; and although in the first instance it was as a matter of necessity given to Englishmen, it followed in due course that natives would have been appointed, as they are in the commissions of the peace in Calcutta and Bombay. The abolition of the magistracy is one blow to native privilege, and is what must be expected from the retrograde party; and, if successful, they will not end till they have abolished the rudiments of municipal institutions, to which they constantly exhibit hostility. The road boards have been repeatedly assailed, and the municipal commissioners, in many cities, are destitute of power. Indeed, India at the present moment, instead of possessing the energetic influence of municipal action, is placed under a scheme of red-tape servitude, to which the administration of France and Prussia is alone comparable. No city in India is allowed a mayor, and the municipal commissioners of a city of half a million of people, are as much under the thrall of the Government, as the pettyest country commune or parish is, in France, under the prefecture and administration. Paternal government, that is to say, despotism, is the principle of the protective party in India, and of a section of theoretical politicians at home. Everything for the State, everything by the State, is their system, while true statesmen seek the reconstruction of India, as they have obtained that of Ireland by fostering independent action.

The municipal commissions are the rudiments of true municipalities, and the honorary magistracy of the commission of the peace, an institution most useful for working out the government of a country like India; and it is to be hoped it will be so employed, and not abolished. It is, after all, one of the most ancient institutions of our rule in India; it was introduced into Bombay nearly two centuries ago, and has existed for about a century at Calcutta. Under this system Englishmen, Hindoos, Mahomedans, and Parsees, have sat together as justices of the peace, and the only thing to be regretted is, that their functions have not been more extensive. This office gives the Parsee merchant of Bombay an assurance that he receives a privilege and can guarantee protection, and it is regarded with just estimation. The commission of the peace, in its accustomed form, is well suited to India, because, by constituting certain persons, who must be Englishmen, to be of the quorum, without whom no business can be transacted, a sufficient security is obtained for the conduct of those who are untrained and untried. There are, too, in India, the Supreme Courts, with the functions of the Court of Queen's Bench, to exercise a jurisdiction over the justices of the peace, to correct their errors, and to punish any malversation.

The commission of the peace, if well filled up with Englishmen, official, military, and civil, and freely recruited with natives, would, at the rate of

three natives to two Englishmen, provide India with what it wants—a good and effective local administration of criminal justice—and relieve the country from great difficulties and a vast expense. As matters now stand, the number of English official magistrates or stipendiaries must be largely increased, imposing an enormous burthen on the country; but by providing for the extension of unpaid justices, provision will likewise be made for the maintenance by localities of the expenses of criminal administration. When all the rajahs and zemindars of a zillah were engaged in its government, there would be less difficulty in levying local rates for local improvements. The present magisterial staff would exercise the functions of stipendiaries in large cities, chairmen of quarter sessions, recorders, and judges of county courts, improving thereby the administration of justice in its higher branches.

In a small city, a captain, a European merchant, and two native merchants; in the country, a planter and two zemindars would do effectively what is now inefficiently performed by the native official. They would be able to examine the witnesses in the vernacular, and the record would be in English, while they would be independent of the *amlah*. A remedy for any abuse would always be obtainable before the Supreme Court, while there would be the usual appeal, in some cases, from petty sessions to quarter sessions, or to the local recorder. Thus, instead of a man being forty or fifty miles away from a magistrate, within a very few years justice would be accessible at his own door, as it is in England; a regular system of petty sessions being organised over the country, and magistrates being available in every neighbourhood.

LATEST INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

THE Calcutta mails have arrived with news to the 9th of February. The intelligence is not important. India is again quiet. There are riots in the Deccan, and riots reported from Travancore; and there are sepoys who still refuse to submit in Behar; but war, for the first time since May, 1857, has ceased.

The people of Oude have at last comprehended their position, and returned to their ordinary avocations. 483 forts have been levelled, and the number of arms surrendered will shortly reach a million stand.

Tantia Topee has disappeared. He and his men entered the desert of Bikaner, and have never been heard of since. Apparently, they have split into small parties, but whether to disperse or to reunite at some point still further to the north is not yet known. Neither he nor Feroze Shah has been captured.

With regard to the issue of Exchequer bills the *Times* correspondent observes:—"The plan has failed, and the experiment has done some mischief. The rate offered, 5½ per cent. per annum, was so high, that the Five per Cents. redeemed at once to 89½, while the offer to pay them off at the expiration of a year deterred permanent investors. The class who in England buy these bills—men with large balances which must be held ready at call—will not buy them in India for the simple reason that they can make 8 per cent. by advances, usually only for a few days, on Government paper. The utter absurdity, also, of an open loan at 5 per cent., and another at 5½ per cent., daunted speculators, by making them believe a 6 per cent. loan imminent. The true reason of these failings is the perverse secrecy always maintained by the Indian Government about its financial position. No capitalist can obtain the smallest idea how much Government is likely to want, or when it will cease borrowing; and confidence, particularly among natives, is destroyed by financial *coups de théâtre*."

The post of Foreign Secretary for India, vacated by the promotion of Mr. Elphinstone, has not yet been filled up. It is generally surmised that Mr. Beadon, the Secretary to the Governor-General, will be named to fill the vacancy. Certainly a more appropriate and popular nomination could hardly be made.

INDIAN POLICE.

A recent Calcutta letter says that:—"Mr. Montgomery in a single night (20th January) dismissed every member of the old police force, which was as corrupt, as cowardly, and as inefficient as

the police everywhere else, and replaced them by armed and drilled constabulary after the Irish plan. Each division—a division contains usually three counties—is occupied by a regiment of mounted police, and three regiments of infantry. The cities have a police of their own, aided by a corps of trained detectives, and commanded by a kotwal or mayor. The police are forbidden to receive confessions or take evidence, the only successful precaution against torture, and the investigation is left exclusively to the civil magistracy. The landlords are compelled to give information of all crime on their own estates; and the village police, a band of ruffians who are the curse of Bengal and the North-West, though not abolished, are ignored. The magistrate, it is proclaimed, will look to their master, the landholder, and not to them. The new system is, of course, experimental, but it contains many elements of success, and at all events rids us of the wild traditional police, who had neither discipline, courage, organisation, nor honour. The new force is to be deprived of its muskets as soon as the population is disarmed, and compelled to rely on the sabre, the pike, and its superior discipline. The civil officers, I understand, are not pleased with the change. Men who have grown up under any system, however bad, are seldom delighted with its sudden and total abolition."

PROSELYTISM AND MISSIONARIES.

Mr. Russell writes:—"The people, in fear and perplexity, seem awaiting the event which is to force them to become Christians. Of the belief in our intentions to convert them no act or saying of ours can divest their minds. Strange to say, such forced conversions as they seem to be looking for are not at all unusual, or rather were not unknown, in Oude; and it has been recorded that the Mahomedans here made many converts to their creed by the simple process of surrounding a village and threatening to kill all the inhabitants unless they embraced the true faith. There are some people who think the Queen could make many millions of Christians here "by proclamation," or by "Act of Parliament," and would advise her Majesty to try the evangelising process, if she were unfortunate enough to have such councillors. It is unquestionable that the efforts of learned missionaries, well versed in the native languages, acquainted with the dialects of the Hindoo and Mahomedan, zealous, pious, and patient, would meet, while the people are in this state of mind, with an amount of success which would be as surprising as it would be gratifying. And here let me observe that these much reviled natives show a temper and moderation which we do not find among self-styled Christian and civilised nations nearer home. So long as a Christian minister can argue with a moulvie or a pundit with patience and ingenuity, he will be listened to with interest and respect; he will be permitted to expound the Scriptures, and to warn his hearers against the errors of their faith, provided that he refrains from insulting, contemptuous, and irritating language; but if he be a mere ignorant, illiterate zealot, without any qualification (temporarily speaking) except a knowledge of Hindostanee and good intentions, he may be exposed to the laughter, scorn, and even abuse of the crowded bazaar, in consequence of his manifest inability to meet the subtle objections of his keen and practised opponents. From what I have heard, I regret to state, my conviction is that no considerable success, so far as human means are concerned, can be expected from the efforts of those who are like the ancient Apostles in all things but their inspiration and heavenly help. The differences between Christian missionaries—the Roman Catholic, who tells the natives that the commissioner, the collector, the Judge, and the chaplain are not christians at all, and that he is the only true teacher—and the clergyman of the Church of England, and the Scotch Presbyterian, and the American Episcopal Methodist, and the Baptist, and the Unitarian, do not present a very encouraging front to the Hindoo or Mussulman would-be neophyte."

INDIAN REVENUE.—The total amount of the net revenue of the empire in India (all provinces included) in the year ended the 30th of April, 1857, was £28,736,698, viz., £11,768,102 in Bengal, £5,917,514 in the North-Western Provinces, £1,254,622 in the Punjab, £5,019,756 in Madras, and £4,776,704 in Bombay. We subjoin the items of the revenue, viz., land, gross revenue, £17,717,580; excise (sayer, abkarree, and moturpha), gross revenue, £1,421,364; gross revenue from the foregoing, £19,138,944; net revenue from the same, £16,834,308; salt (net), £2,993,453; customs (net), £1,025,237; and, miscellaneous (net), £4,022,549. That important article, opium, yielded a gross revenue of £5,003,162, and a net revenue of £3,861,151.

The improvement of the police system of Oude, by the virtual extinction of the old police, is a very much better measure.

NOTES ON INDIAN PROGRESS.

THE grant of leave to Europe goes on upon an extensive scale, but the hill stations are well frequented.

From Darjeeling a considerable detachment of recovered men and invalids, who have benefited by the beautiful climate, has been despatched to the plains by Major Hopkins, the commandant. Lieut. Vandeleur, H. M. 35th, is to command, and Assist.-Surgeon De Chaumont takes medical charge. At Bhaugulpore the detachment was to divide into two—one proceeding to Calcutta, under Lieut. Græme; H. M.'s 37th, and the other, under Lieut. Vandeleur, to the upper provinces.

Lieut. J. Jordan, 43rd N.L.I., is ordered to do duty with the Darjeeling dépôt.

Mr. Hyde Clarke, the author of Colonization, Railways, and Defence in our Indian Empire, has been appointed by the British settlers in the Darjeeling country, in North Bengal, their agent, to represent their interests before the Council for India, and the Colonization Committee. On Thursday, he had an interview with Lord Stanley at the East India House, to present a memorial from Darjeeling in favour of granting an immediate guarantee to the Northern Bengal Railway. Mr. Clarke will receive other memorials from the cities of Calcutta, Dinajepore, Rungpore, Maldah, &c.

At Dehra various appointments have been made. Assist.-Surgeon M. B. Lambie still officiates as civil surgeon, until the return of the Goorkha regiment, now on its march back. They are looking out for some European deserters from Nynee Tal.

Ensign F. H. Alexander has six months' leave to the hills north of Dehra.

At Mussoorie the winter has been extraordinarily mild, and the rhododendrons are a month and a half in advance. Some fears are expressed of a change in the weather.

Captain Reid, 50th B.N.I. has extended leave to Mussoorie.

Assist. Surgeon John Bell, 93rd Highlanders, has received medical charge of the Dugshaie dépôt, but Surgeon D. Macrae remains in the superior charge of Dugshaie and Soobalho.

Ensign F. G. Coleridge, 42nd Highlanders, has been appointed station staff at Nynee Tal. Staff Assist. Surgeon A. W. P. Pinkerton has medical charge of the convalescent dépôt.

Captain E. W. E. Walker is appointed to do duty with the Landour dépôt.

Assist.-Surgeon A. S. A. Wilson has been sent to Almora to take charge of the Goorkha dépôt there, the jail and civil station, in the place of Surgeon Lee, M.D.

Brevet Major J. H. Cox, H. M.'s 75th Foot, has been appointed to the command of the dépôt at Murree. Brevet Major D. D. Muter, 60th Foot, has left Murree for Kurrahee.

There are strong rumours of expected disturbances from the hill tribes of the Sind frontier, in consequence of General Jacob's death.

For the Neigherries Lieut. Whitlock, aide-de-camp to General Whitlock, has leave till the end of the year. Captain J. G. Cookson, 8th M.L.C., has leave for six months. Ensign H. S. Stewart is doing duty with the detachment of the 1st Madras Fusiliers, at Jackatalla. Captain J. C. McCaskill, 51st M.N.I., has leave till September 15th.

Assist.-Surgeon C. W. White has six months' leave to Bangalore and the west coast of Madras.

We regret to observe that a convalescent dépôt has been established at Allahabad, when every exertion should be used to send men to the hills.

Mr. Ewart's Committee on English Colonization and Settlement in India, met in No. 18 Committee-room on Monday and Thursday, at the House of Commons. Assam was the subject of inquiry, on which Colonel Veitch and Mr. Paterson Saunders brought forward important evidence.

The Hon. G. F. Edmonstone has taken office as Lieutenant-Governor of the north-west provinces.

There is a strong report in India of what is justly regarded as a retrograde step—the abolition of the honorary magistracies, under, it is said, orders from home, whereas the Lieutenant-Governor is satisfied they are doing well. The reason assumed for this unfortunate measure is the assumption that the honorary magistracy makes an invidious distinction between Europeans and natives. It might just as rationally be proposed to abolish justices of peace in Canada on account of the French; in the Cape and Guiana on account of the Dutch, or in Trinidad on account of the Spaniards, or in India itself to abolish the justices of the presidential cities. Why cannot natives work with Europeans as magistrates; and what can be a better political training than to associate one or two natives with each European, making the latter one of the quorum? In this way, too, preparation would be made for courts of quarter session and general session. The system works well in all our colonies of mixed race, and there is no reasonable ground against its working well in India. On

the other hand, the stipendiary system checks the political growth of a country, and entails enormous expense.

One symptom of the improvement of India is the very great increase in the expenses of living in Calcutta. This partly arises from the influx of English, for whom there is not adequate special accommodation, and partly from the change taking place in prices throughout India, and which will in time retrieve the Government finances. In Calcutta they are straitened for land for improvements. In Bombay the same complaint is made.

"God Save the Queen" has been translated into Marahitta, and extensively circulated.

Upon those distinguished men, Lieutenant-Colonel Baird Smith and Major R. Strachey of the Engineers, the Governor-General has bestowed the compliment of appointing them members of the senate of the University of Calcutta.

Sir John Lawrence complains, and not without reason, of the inefficient state of the Public Works Department in his government. The accounts are in confusion, there is no substantial control, the bridges do not stand a second rainy season, and the roads are perpetually wanting repair. This must always be the case, so long as the public works are left to uneducated military engineers and officers, and while India is deprived of a body of independent professional men.

The new cantonment at Lucknow is in progress a natural ridge, admitting of good drainage. The people are awaiting the authorisation by the Government of the Oude Railway.

At Bombay the company called the Viegas Patent Slip Company is fully constituted, but they want a better piece of ground, in which they are supported by the municipal commissioners, but it is doubtful if the Government will accede to the request.

The steamers are now running on the Indus, 800 miles from Mooltan to Kurrahee; but the complaints are great that they are inadequate to the traffic, overloaded, and take thirty days to get up the stream.

The Madras Chamber of Commerce has taken in hand a most important measure in consequence of the present confusion of native weights and measures, and that is the establishment of English standards, as in the rest of the empire, and so as to work uniformly with the United States, and thus have the benefit of conformity with the great seats of commerce.

In Bombay, notwithstanding the facilities for getting labour, rates of wages have so risen that arrangements are in progress for obtaining Chinese workmen from Hong-Kong.

In Ceylon a scarcity of labour for public works is likewise felt, but the railway is proceeding with vigour.

The receipts of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway on the section opened shows a profit of upwards of 5 per cent. for the half year.

RUSSIAN VIEW OF OUR INDIAN AFFAIRS.—An article from the *St. Petersburgskie Vedomosti*, entitled "England in India, Italy, and Greece," remarks:—"On considering the most recent events in India, we cannot but say that England's self-confidence must have been greatly increased by the issue of the late revolutionary movements. The suppression of the Indian mutiny, it is true, has greatly told upon the finances and forces of England, and for thirty or even fifty years to come, the country of the Hindoo ought to be considered as a heap of smouldering ashes, from whence at any moment flames may arise threatening the whole land with destruction. In spite of all this, the result of the last struggle bears testimony to the ample resources of England. In the short space of a year and a half, England, for the reconquest of her Asiatic empire, has been strong enough to sustain the loss of an amount of money and men equal to that originally required for its subjugation during the course of a whole century. Never in former times has Great Britain commanded a sufficient force for efforts so gigantic abroad, without hazarding her position amongst the European states; and what ought to be specially borne in mind, all these exertions have been made immediately at the close of a war, devouring an immense amount of wealth, and about 50,000 of the flower of her army. There are two ways for the demonstration of national power. One empire covers itself with the glories of steady conquest, and the laurels won in a continued series of battle-fields; whilst another State redeems its fame by a quick resurrection from misery. The worth and renown due to the latter are by no means inferior to those of the former. As a crowning point of England's merits, we must not overlook the fact that, owing to the solidity of the people's character and institutions, no very extraordinary measures have been resorted to in the re-establishment of her Indian dominion, nor has her debt been greatly increased, or the assistance of strangers needed."

COMMERCIAL.

THE ACCUMULATION AND VALUE OF GOLD.

ACCORDING to the Bank returns of last week, there was then 19,951,022*l.* of bullion and coin in its vaults. Of this sum only a very small portion was silver coin. The bulk was gold. In the Irish and Scotch banks, of which the circulation is very generally and very considerably above their authorised circulation, there is about 4,950,000*l.* The Bank of France holds, by the latest return, coin and bullion to the amount of 22,284,000*l.* So that there is at present an accumulation of gold in different places, and a recurrence of the apprehensions that it is destined to fall in value. There is, too, a recurrence of discussions on the subject, and, at present, a growing conviction that we are deficient in knowledge of the quantity of bullion in existence, and of the requirements of mankind, to enable us to form any reasonable conjectures as to its future value.

We all know that when gold was found in California and in Australia, in such unheard-of quantities, and obtained at such a comparatively small cost, that the most dismal apprehensions were entertained by the holders of fixed incomes of the depreciation of their property; that some States, as Holland and Belgium, hastened to demonitize gold; and that at the end of eight years there is not the slightest appearance of that general rise in the price of all commodities which was to bring to poverty or starvation all the genteel part of society. On the contrary, the last six weeks' average price of wheat, to quote one specimen, but the most important, is 40*s.* 10*d.* per quarter, which is lower than the average price of any year since 1852, and lower than the average price of every year since 1842, except the three years immediately following the final repeal of the corn law, 1850-51-52. So it is with other commodities, they have fallen, not risen in price; and where a rise has taken place, as in cotton and meat, it is clearly the consequence of causes, such as greatly increased consumption, totally different from the increase in the quantity of gold. Another test of the value of gold generally referred to is silver; and as these metals are the great media of exchange between different countries, a rise in the price of silver may be considered equivalent to a fall in the price of gold. But the recorded price of silver, 61*d.* per ounce, in 1851, and 61*d.* at the present, or even 62*d.*, as quoted on Thursday, is as little favourable to the ratio of a continuous fall in the value of gold as the price of wheat. The time is now come, therefore, when we must look at the elements of value, apart from the statistics of quantities, and not infer, however certain it be, that all correct opinions and all correct judgments are ultimately formed on the material world, that the estimate of value, which is entirely mental, must necessarily vary throughout society, as a ton or two is added to the bullion usually obtained.

From a remote period in the history of Europe the different Governments acted on an opinion that they could determine the value of the precious metals, when used as coin, and that this was their duty. Our kings were extremely tenacious on this point: and "for either subject or stranger," we are told, "to interfere with this prerogative by coining was worse than murder or any other felony." "No foreign coin was allowed to be used, except to be exchanged at the king's mint, or by the king's exchangers, according to their valuation of the foreign money." "The sovereign set his own value on his own coin." To carry out this plan a king's exchanger was appointed with unlimited power over the money transactions of the country. "The last royal exchanger was Lord Burleigh." These preposterous claims are not yet all at an end; and though the discovery of America and the extension of trade have made it perfectly clear that the circulation and value of the precious metals as the media for carrying on exchange between individuals, and securing the subsistence of society, are beyond all effectual and beneficial control by any Governments, however powerful, whether despotic or free, they still inter-

fere in many ways with metallic money. To the old prejudices of the Plantagenets and the Tudors, even the Lloyds and the Hubbards of our day are still victims, to say nothing of the Liverpools and the Peels, who inherited them in direct official lineal descent. They acknowledge that over the quantity and the value of gold and silver, Government has no power; that they are natural or universal money, the more valuable metal being necessarily the money of the richer people; that both are essential to exchange, which is essential to production; therefore, that they are natural and necessary parts of social existence; and yet the heirs of the prejudices of the Edwards and the Henrys still believe that there is some little part of this universal scheme which they can advantageously modify. So we have seen the Governments of Holland and Belgium refuse to allow gold to be used as legal money in their countries. Banish it from circulation they cannot; but they will only allow silver to be the measure of value of all other commodities, including gold. Our Government takes a directly opposite course, and will not allow silver to be used here as legal money for a sum greater than 40*s.* It will not allow commerce to have and use any other money or measure of value than gold. Thus we are taught at once that we must look to the regulations of Governments, as well as the quantities of the precious metals, before we can form correct opinions of the natural relation of value betwixt them, and betwixt them and other commodities, which is to affect the incomes of all classes in society.

Now it is at once obvious that the regulations of the two countries mentioned, making in them silver more necessary than gold to carry on business, must have enhanced its value in relation to gold and other things. Such a change would go far to account for the slight increase in the value of silver which the recorded prices indicate. But in the same period, that is, since 1850, there has been a great extension of the trade between India and China and Europe. To go no further back than 1854, when the computed real value of imports was first given, between that and 1857 the imports from China increased from 9,125,040*l.* to 11,448,639*l.*, and from British India, exclusive of Singapore and Ceylon, from 10,672,862*l.* to 18,650,223*l.* These two great countries, already crowded with an industrious population, have been accustomed, like other civilised people, for ages, to use silver as money, and there is no reason, therefore, to be surprised when such large quantities of gold flowed into Europe that large quantities of silver flowed from Europe into Asia. In the seven years, 1851-1857, according to a paper laid before the Committee of the House of Commons to inquire into the Bank Acts, silver, to the amount of 56,676,000*l.* was exported from Western Europe to China and Hindostan. Whatever may be the case in China—though, as the Chinese are eager seekers after gold in California and Australia, there is no reason to suppose they would not willingly receive it in their own country in exchange for silk and tea—Australian gold has continually found a market in India, and been sent thither. But in China old regulations, and in India modern regulations, make silver the only legal money; and for the same reason that its value is artificially enhanced in Europe by the action of the Governments of Belgium and Holland, it is enhanced in Asia by the action of the Governments of China and Hindostan. To those who habitually see nothing but wisdom dictating the conduct of statesmen, it may appear strange, but to us who have dogged their steps, it is only amusing to find them foolishly decreeing in England that only gold, and in India, that only silver shall be legal money. Yet they actually adopt these two adverse courses, one or other of which, or both, must be erroneous, and they prohibit the use of gold in India as money, and of silver in England. They therefore disturb the natural relative value of the two metals in both countries—raise that of silver in Hindostan, and raise that of gold in Europe—and strengthen, if they do not originate the causes, which make silver continually flow in such large quantities from the

latter to the former. As commerce in both countries naturally does, and naturally would on all occasions, use the metal which is relatively cheaper for paying debts, and as this use is a natural part of society, like division of labour, the Government by its regulations actually thwarts the dispensation of Providence, and causes all the loss and waste which arise from bringing hither the gold, which, could it be freely used, would, in the natural course of trade, flow from Australia to Hindostan, and sending silver in its stead to the latter.

Having thus slightly indicated some of the causes, which alter the relative value of the precious metals to one another, independently of the quantities produced, we must add that similar causes—namely, regulations, especially those which impede exchange and production, as many of them do to an almost inconceivable extent, affect in like manner the value of all commodities in relation to the precious metals. The stimulus which the modern discovery of large quantities of gold has given to exchange and production all over the world would be quite sufficient, there can be no doubt, because these are all parts of the same natural system, to require and absorb all the additional gold and silver lately added to the general supply. It would operate in two directions. It would increase the quantity of commodities to be exchanged, making more money everywhere required; and it would increase the opulence of individuals and of nations, everywhere increasing the demand for the precious metals in the arts and for ornaments. Unless we could estimate the future increase of population on the globe under free intercourse, and the future craving for ornament of all that population, which will tend to enhance the value of the precious metals, it is perfectly idle to speculate on the effects of the new quantities over the future estimate of value. We know, from experience, that the great tendency in the price of all commodities, as measured by the precious metals, since the first effects of the discovery of America passed away—has been downwards. All things have become cheaper. They are obtained by less labour, and a less quantity of gold has to be given for them. On this general fact we are inclined to believe that there never will be that augmentation of prices which some alarmists expect, from finding large quantities of gold in California and Australia.

We must remind the reader, in confirmation of this view, that the amount of gold recently discovered and brought into use as money, is very much less in quantity than the substitutes for it which have been gradually, and in some cases hastily introduced into use without perceptibly affecting the value of the precious metals. All over Europe paper has been substituted for the precious metals as money. In the beginning of the American war only paper was to be found in the countries that are now the United States. At the period of the French Revolution, millions of assignats banished gold from France. For many years a forced paper currency was almost the only money in use in England, Russia, Austria, Prussia, Sweden, Denmark, and in many of the small states of Germany. Now, if the immense addition to the money of the world made by this forced paper currency, had no perceptible effect on the estimated value of the precious metals, how can we credit the alarmists who tell us, that adding a few additional millions of gold to the circulation will decrease its value? Value is an estimate of the mind. For gold, the craving is so great, that the supply must always be below the desire for it, and the consequence is, that the value, however much it may sink, never can fall below the average estimate in past years, as is apprehended by those who look merely at the additional quantity. On this account, throughout the whole convulsive period we have alluded to, when heaps of paper money were forced into use, gold and silver retained their value nearly unaltered, as was continually proved by a depreciation of the paper money in proportion to its quantity. Through all those storms the value of the metals remained a fixed and certain light, wooing and even commanding Governments

to guide their steps by it; and informing them that to make their paper money a safe substitute for the precious metals, they must allow its quantity to be regulated exclusively by their value and the public demands for it.

The accumulation of gold in the several banks, which we began by stating, is the consequence of the enterprise of Europe being impeded by the action of the Governments, and will be lessened as enterprise is extended. It is temporary.

GENERAL TRADE REPORT.

London, Friday Evening.

BUSINESS continues so equable and quiet, that we can add nothing to our market reports which follow.

The trade of the week has been good, but very much checked by the state of uncertainty which still prevails everywhere as to the chances of peace or war on the Continent. Of course, while this uncertainty continues, it would be unwise, on the part of manufacturers, to supply themselves with stock in the expectation of Continental orders, which may never arrive; and it can hardly be expected that merchants will give out orders for goods for the Continental markets, when there is a probability of the present peaceful condition of things being rudely put an end to. With these remarks, we may say that the general trade is as good as can be expected, and would be much better if all parties could rely on peaceful times.

LIVERPOOL.—The market for cotton has been comparatively quiet. The sales have not been large, but full prices have been maintained. The latest advices from New York, per Africa, report that there was a falling-off in supply, and that prices were rather higher.

MANCHESTER.—A slight reaction has taken place in the hopeful and active condition of the trade for the India markets. The advices from Calcutta and Bombay are regarded as unfavourable, and the result is that the market for yarns and shirtings for India is lower and not so brisk. We have steadily warned manufacturers against taking it for granted that the recent activity and the large demand for India would continue always. We have pointed out the danger of glutting the markets, and the certainty when the supply was provided for, that lower prices must be expected. The turn has apparently come, but it will not be felt inconveniently, because the majority of the manufacturers are still working upon previous contracts, and will keep working upon them for some time to come. Those manufacturers who have run out their contracts have in some instances made new engagements at somewhat lower prices. India shirtings are about 3d. per piece lower. The other kinds of cloth do not show any variation; a steady demand still continues, and prices, if anything, are higher rather than lower. This advance is owing to the continued rise in the raw material. Messrs. Slagg's circular reports:—"There is little or no change to notice in the market to-day. We continue to have a steady demand for long-cloths, &c., at the prices of last week, occasionally with a slight advance. India goods are still comparatively neglected, but owing the absence of stocks, and the continued upward tendency of the cotton market, there is but little giving way in prices."

WOOL.—The colonial wool sales have terminated. The quantity was about 35,000 bales, of which nearly one-half was Cape wool. The best sorts of Australian wool—the new clip—fetched higher prices—as much as 2d. to 3d. per lb. more. But the inferior sorts were, in some instances, 1d. to 1½d. lower. It was remarked that the wool came here in rather better condition; but there is still great room for improvement in cleaning and scouring.

LEEDS.—The markets have not been very active, all parties being determined to exercise caution. Merchants will not give out export orders, and dealers only buy what they want for immediate use. Mixtures and light fabrics continue to be in demand. For the finer qualities there has been no remarkable inquiry.

BRADFORD.—Sales of wool were on a limited scale. Nails and shorts dull of sale and low in price. In worsted yarns the demand is steady.

LEICESTER.—The hosiery trade is quiet, except in the sock and glove branches. The trade is, however, quite an average trade for the time of year. The wool market is dull; yarns are rather lower.

NOTTINGHAM.—A better appearance is visible in the lace trade, but though more business is doing the demand is not an average one. Plain descriptions meet ready sale. Silk goods are not in request. The hosiery trade here and in the country districts keeps up its activity.

BIRMINGHAM.—The hardware trade, though not brisk, is well employed.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND WALES.—The iron districts are tolerably well employed in orders for rails and railway materials for the Continent and the Colonies.

The strikes are not over. Some benevolent individuals are buying themselves in the endeavour to find out some way by which these strikes can be avoided for the future. In this direction we fear that legislation will prove a failure.

MONEY MARKET & STOCK EXCHANGE.

Friday Evening.

In the course of the week the funds have been generally depressed, though our Railways, from the increase of traffic, have kept well up. Foreign securities, in the week, particularly French railways, have been depressed, owing to the continual alarm which prevails as to the future condition of France. The markets opened heavy to day, and at a slight decline from the closing price of yesterday. Consols were at 95½, but towards the close of business, in consequence of more favourable intelligence from Paris they recovered, as did the markets generally, and Consols closed at 95½. It was stated that on Lord Cowley's arrival at Paris he had had an interview with the Emperor which, on the Paris Bourse, had been considered satisfactory, and the French Threes, as reported by telegraph, rose to 68. It is very sad to have to state, day after day, and week after week, that business continues disturbed, and to find all the disturbance attributed to one man. If the Emperor of the French had some friend to inform him how much public opinion in England has changed with regard to him—how many persons now actually wish him out of the way who not long ago regarded his life as the security of Europe—he would be alarmed at his own condition, and would bethink him how he could recover the good opinion of sober and reflecting men of business, not only in England, but in every part of Europe. It is terrible to live hated by mankind. Money is in good demand, and no bills are discounted under the Bank rate, 2½ per cent. The discount houses have raised their terms for money on call, or at short fixed periods, to 1½ and 2 per cent. Money is scarcer than it was, and people are apprehensive that they may want it. This creates a demand for it. Accordingly, the Bank of England is getting bills to discount, and the returns will show an increase of private securities. At this period of the quarter it is, indeed, almost always called on for advances; and probably the pressure for money will diminish, if it do not cease, after the dividends are paid next month, should political affairs not then assume a more unfavourable aspect.

There are, however, several occasions for employing money, which tend to increase the demand, and in the course of the week—to mention one—the East Indian Railway Company, has come into the market for a loan of £1,000,000 on debentures, having five years to run, bearing 4½ per cent. interest. The proposal was favourably received, and a very short time after the books were opened the whole was subscribed for, and the books were shut. The debentures commanded a premium of 1½ to 2 per cent., and some of the holders of the stock of the Company, who expected to have the debentures in preference to other persons thought that the books were closed too soon, and that some unfair play had taken place. It is unfortunate that any such suspicion should attach to this proceeding, for the public is now so watchful that a belief of some trickery being intended may be fatal to the success of the company, should it want to borrow in future.

One of the projects in the market deserving some attention, is that for the purchase of a working of collieries, near Chesterfield, which promises well. It is called the Whittington Freehold Estate and Colliery Company, has a good business-like directory, and has the advantage of tending to improve our own country, and give us additional supplies of fuel.

On several occasions lately we have pointed out that a general desire prevailed in Europe for peace; the consequence of the exertions now everywhere making to extend trade and promote material well-being. We have pointed out that the success and progress of the different nations of Europe insured the continuance of peace, if political adventures of all kinds would be less active and troublesome. On Thursday the *Times* in a useful leader described at considerable length the condition and prospects

of France, and asserted that "except a small band of adventurers, the whole French nation is resolutely bent on peace." In France, it said, "are the elements of a prosperity beyond calculation; and to a supremacy in the arts of peace the French people may aspire if they can compel their rulers to give up the barren and inglorious part to which they have so long devoted their country." But they have done this in one instance. They have checked their despotic ruler, and they are indebted for their power to do this, to having imitated our habits of industry. In consequence, "their progress within the last fifteen years has been immense. French exports have increased at a greater rate than the English, and France is able to bear a taxation which would have crushed her in the days of M. Guizot's Ministry." She is powerful as well as peaceful, and the improvement is due to her successful industry. It is much to be wished that the *Times* would inspire its foreign correspondents with the spirit of the Thursday's leader.

At the half-yearly general Court of the Bank of England, held on Thursday, Mr. Sheffield Neave, the Governor, presiding, the profits during the past six months were stated at 610,956½, and a dividend of 4 per cent., without deduction of income-tax, was declared.

This dividend of 8 per cent. per annum contrasts rather unfavourably with the dividends paid by the joint-stock banks and with the profits of private bankers. But then the Bank of England has a reserve of 3,050,824½, is the bank of the Government, has the regulation of the currency as a part of its duties, and is a dignified member of the State rather than of Commerce.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Wednesday, the 18th day of March, 1859:—

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.	
Notes issued.....	£33,080,950
Government Debt £11,043,100	
Other Securities .. 2,450,800	
Gold Coin & Bullion 19,250,000	
Silver Bullion	—
	£33,080,950
BANKING DEPARTMENT.	
Proprietors' Capital.....	£14,553,000
Reserve.....	3,632,476
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts).....	8,854,497
Other Deposits.....	13,641,263
Seven Day and other Bills.....	764,908
	£41,466,236
	£41,466,236

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Dated March 17, 1859.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, March 15.

BANKRUPTS.

DAVID CHINERY, Ampton-place, Gray's inn road. African merchant.
JAMES LEVINGSTON, Liverpool, merchant and cotton dealer.
THOMAS WALKER, York, boot and shoe maker.
JOHN CLEASBY, Eccles, Lancashire, inkpiper and victualler.
ALFRED MARCHANT, Maidstone, clothier and draper.
REGINALD WOODCOCK, Weymouth, Dorsetshire, ironmonger.
SAMUEL KUTTNER and ROBERT CLUBLEY WHITE, Kingston-upon-Hull, ship owners and commission agents.
PETER FORAN, Birmingham, grocer.
JOHN CRACKNELL, Enfield, Middlesex, licensed victualler.

Friday, March 18.

EMIL HENRY LEIBUS, Bush-lane, Cannon-street, City, merchant.
JOHN WILSON, Rotherhithe, auctioneer.
THOMAS GURNEY and JOHN JACOBS, Walworth-road, Surrey, tailors.
JOHN WILLIAM ROWE HUBT, Plymouth, watchmaker.
GEORGE HARMSTON EDWARDS, tobaccoist, Lincoln.
THOMAS HELLIWELL, Hipperholme, Yorkshire, innkeeper.
THOMAS HUGHES, Tyddyn-du, Carnarvonshire, cattle dealer.
WILLIAM JAMES TAYLOR, North Shields, chemist and druggist.
WILLIAM HOWLETT, Harwich, builder and contractor.
JOHN HUTCHINSON ASPINWALL, Argyll-street, merchant.
RICHARD BEDFORD ALLEN, Walthamstow, insurance broker and underwriter.
MATTHEW BAMBRIDGE, King's Lynn, builder.
JOHN JAMES HARRISON, Maidstone, hair dresser.
JOHN MURRAY, New-road, Rotherhithe, contractor.
THOMAS PAUL YOUNGMAN, Nottingham, commission agent.
CHARLES SMITH, Bulwel, Nottinghamshire, miller.

[illegible]

ENGLISH STOCKS.	Frl.	ENGLISH STOCKS.	Frl.	FOREIGN STOCKS.	Frl.	FOREIGN STOCKS.	Frl.
Bank Stock Div. $\frac{1}{2}$ p. c. 4-year	..	India Loan Scrip. ....	..	Austrian Bonds, 5 per cent. ....	..	Russian Bonds, 1822, 3p. ct. in £ st	..
3 per cent. Reduced Anns. ....	..	Do. Bonds, 4 per cent. 10000 ..	..	Brazilian Bonds, 5 per cent.	103	Ditto 44 per cent.	100
Ditto for Opening .....	..	Ditto under 10000 ..	20	Ditto 44 per cent. 1838.	94	Sardinian Bonds, 5 per cent. ....	..
3 per cent. Consols Anns.	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bank Stock for account Aug. 5	..	Ditto 5 per cent. 1829 and 1830 ..	..	Spanish Bonds, 3 per cent. ....	..
Ditto for Opening .....	..	3 p. ct. Cons. for account do	..	Ditto 5 per cent. 1843 .....	..	Ditto 3 per cent. Deferred .....	..
New 3 per cent. Anns. ....	..	Ditto for Opening do	..	Ditto 44 per cent. 1838 .....	..	Ditto Passive Bonds .....	..
Ditto for Opening .....	..	India Stock, for account do	..	Buenos Ayres Bonds, 6 per cent. ....	..	Ditto Com. Cert. of Coupon not fd.	..
New $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Anns. ....	..	Exchequer Bills, 2d. and 14d. p. day	..	Ditto Account .....	..	Turkish Scrip, 6 per cent. ....	..
5 per cent. ....	..	Ditto 10000 ..	..	Chilian Bonds, 5 per cent.	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ditto 5 per cent. Guaranteed ..	..
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1850 ..	..	Ditto 5000 ..	36	Ditto 3 per cent. ....	..	Venezuela 5 per cent. ....	..
Anns. for 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859.	16	Ditto Small ..	36	Danish Bonds, 3 per cent. 1825 ..	..	Ditto Deferred 2 per cent. ....	..
Ditto exp. Jan. 5, 1860 ..	..	Ditto Advertised 14 ..	..	Ditto 5 per cent. Bonds. ....	..	[Divs. on above payable in London.]	..
Ditto " Jan. 5, 1860 ..	..	Ditto Bonds, A 1858 $\frac{1}{2}$ p. ct. ....	..	Dutch 24 p. c. Exchange 12 Guilders	..	Belgian Bonds 44 per cent. ....	..
Ditto " Jan. 5, 1860 ..	..	Ditto under 10000 ..	..	Grenada Bonds, New Active, 24 p. c.	..	Dutch 24 p. c. Exchange 12 Guilders	..
Ditto " April 5, 1865 ..	..	Ditto B 1859 ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ditto Deferred .....	..	Ditto 4 per cent. Certificates ..	..
India Stock, 104 per cent. ....	..	Ditto under 1000 ..	..	Guatemala .....	..	Peruvian Dollar Bonds .....	..
Do. Loan Debentures	98 $\frac{1}{2}$			Mexican 3 per cent. ....	..	PARIS .....	..
				Peruvian Bonds, 44 per cent. ....	..	French Rentes, 44 per cent. ....	..
				Ditto 44 per cent. (Urribarren) ..	..	Ditto 3 per cent.	60 $\frac{1}{2}$
				Portuguese Bonds, 3 per cent. 1833	..		

JOINT-STOCK BANKS.						JOINT-STOCK BANKS.					
No. of Shares.	Dividends per annum.	Names.	Shares.	Paid.	Price per Share.	No. of Shares.	Dividends per annum.	Names.	Shares.	Paid.	Price per Share.
			£	£ s. d.					£	£ s. d.	
22000	20½ per cent.	Australasia	40	40 0 0	94½	20000	6½ per cent.	National Bank	50	25 0 0	..
10000	7½ per cent.	Bank of Egypt	25	25 0 0	24½	25000	20½ per cent.	New South Wales	25	20 0 0	..
6000	5½ per cent.	Bank of London	100	50 0 0	47	50400	12½ per cent.	Oriental Bank Corporation	25	25 0 0	..
20000	6½ per cent.	British North American	50	50 0 0	..	25000	..	Ottoman Bank	20	30 0 0	..
4000	3½ per cent.	Char. of India, Australia, and China	20	10 0 0	8½	20000	14½ per cent.	Provincial of Ireland	100	20 0 0	..
20000	6½ per cent.	City Bank	100	50 0 0	65	4000	..	Ditto New	10	10 0 0	..
20000	6½ per cent.	Colonial	100	25 0 0	..	12000	5½ per cent.	Ionian Bank	25	25 0 0	..
25000	6½ per cent.	Commercial of London	100	20 0 0	10	12000	12½ per cent.	South Australia	25	25 0 0	..
25000	6½ per cent.	Eng. Scot. and Aust. Chartered	20	20 0 0	16½	4000	..	Ditto New	25	12 10 0	..
35000	6½ per cent.	London Chartered Bank of Australia	20	20 0 0	23½	32000	19½ per cent.	Union of Australia	25	25 0 0	..
20000	12½ per cent.	London and County	50	20 0 0	..	8000	30½ per cent.	Ditto New .....	..	10 0 0	..
20000	23½ per cent.	London Joint Stock	50	10 0 0	..	100000	..	Union of Hamburgh	25	20 0 0	..
60000	14½ per cent.	London and Westminster	100	20 0 0	..	90000	15½ per cent.	Union of London	50	10 0 0	..
10000	16½ per cent.	National Provincial of England	100	35 0 0	..	3000	3½ per cent.	Unity Mutual Bank	100	50 0 0	..
16000	16½ per cent.	Ditto New	20	10 0 0	..	4000	3½ per cent.	Western of London	100	50 0 0	20

* Ex Dividend or ex. New.

HOME, COLONIAL AND FOREIGN
PRODUCE MARKETS.

REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

Friday Evening.

THE adverse influence of political affairs is unabated, and the markets show a continued scarcity of Continental orders. The home demand is also increasingly dull in several departments; but this arises more from the fact that buyers are limiting their operations as much as possible, in order to avail themselves of the advantage which is likely to arise from expected arrivals than from any absolute falling-off on the general consumption. Moreover, the present state of Parliamentary matters is not without some effect in checking transactions. Under these circumstances, this week's business is even more restricted than the last.

CORN.—Trade continues dull for all descriptions of English wheat, of which the arrivals are moderate. Fine samples bring their former value steadily, but inferior are forced off at irregular, and in many cases at lower, prices. The imports of foreign wheat at this port are upon the recent moderate scale, and the outputs are decidedly small. Holders are consequently firm, and demand full prices, which are, however, obtainable for small quantities only. Floating cargoes of Egyptian are rather dearer. The flour trade is without improvement; the supplies of English are very plentiful, but are not offered on lower terms. French moves off very unevenly, buyers gaining the advantage in terms. Malt is held somewhat firmly, but purchases are of limited extent. Barley of fine malting quality is steady, but grinding descriptions of foreign are the turn cheaper. Beans and peas sell in retail quantities, without change in price. Oats are in steady request, the purchases being principally in Danish and Swedish. No change occurred in price, but fine corn has rather an upward bias. Since last Friday fifty-seven cargoes of grain have arrived off the coast for orders. Numerous sales have taken place. Wheat—Galatz, 38s. per 480lbs.; Berdiansk, 42s. 4½d.; Egyptian, Saide, 26s. 4½d. to 26s. 9d. for 492lbs., clearance, freight, and insurance. Indian corn is lower. Ibrail, 26s. 4½d. to 26s. 6d.; Odessa, 26s. 7½d.

Arrivals.

	English.	Foreign.
Wheat (quarters)	5,772	10,373
Barley	1,881	9,323
Malt	18,906	—
Oats	5,959	13,570
Beans	676	68
Peas	277	345
Flour (sacks)	15,958	2,081
" (barrels)	—	2,043
London Averages.		
Wheat (quarters)	3,659	42 8
Barley	518	36 2
Oats	2,564	25 2
Beans	368	36 1
Peas	124	41 3

SEEDS.—The week's arrivals are only 630 qrs. from Egypt. Lower prices have been taken. Bombay cannot be quoted over 54s. to 54s. 6d.; no Calcutta over 50s. to 52s. Four cargoes of Black Sea seeds, off the Coast, have sold at 51s. 9d. to 52s., delivered U.K., and one of Odessa, just shipped, at 51s. per qr. A cargo of 12,000 bgs. (5,000 qrs.), now on passage from Bombay, has sold at 53s. 6d. with bags, deliverable at an out-port. In rape seed very little is doing; fine sound Calcutta is worth 50s. to 52s.; fine Bombay Guzerat, 61s., on the spot, and 60s. to arrive. Linseed cake is in moderate demand only; best New York bags maintain late rates, but best barrel cake has declined 2s. 6d. per ton.

POTATOES.—Of the recent heavy supplies considerable quantities have been cleared off at low prices, and arrivals are less plentiful. The market is now stender. York Regents, 85s. to 105s.; Flukes, 85s. to 110s.; Scotch Regents, 40s. to 55s.; Cups, 40s. to 55s.; Dunbar Regents, 80s. to 95s.; Cups, 60s. to 70s.; French, 40s. to 55s. per ton.

LIVE STOCK.—The show of nearly every description of stock has been very scant, and the condition middling. Higher prices were in all cases realised, and a fair clearance effected. Beasts made 4d., and sheep 2d. to 4d. advance. The following were the numbers at market and current prices:—

Monday.			
Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
2,080	18,150	35	350
4s. 6d. to 5s. 2d.	4s. 10d. to 5s. 10d.	4s. 6d. to 6s.	3s. to 4s. 4d.
Thursday.			
870	3,900	72	150
4s. 6d. to 5s. 2d.	4s. 10d. to 5s. 10d.	4s. 6d. to 6s.	3s. to 4s. 4d.

PROVISIONS.—At Newgate and Leadenhall the supplies have been moderate and prices higher. Beef, 3s. 8d. to 4s. 8d.; mutton, 4s. to 5s.; veal, 4s. 8d. to 5s.; pork, 3s. 8d. to 5s. per stone.

SUGAR.—The market is exceedingly flat at 6d. to 9d. reduction on most descriptions. On the spot the business is restricted to small parcels West India at 29s. to 43s. for Berbice, Mauritius bright heavy, to fine brown, 37s. to 39s.; soft yellow, 41s. to 42s. 6d.; middling to good, some grainy, 43s. to 44s. 6d.; crystallised 43s. 4½d.; Benares, 43s. to 45s. In Cuba sugars the sales have been inconsiderable. Deliveries have hitherto been of a fair average extent, but must necessarily diminish with the prevailing restriction of purchases, and, as important arrivals are expected, stocks are likely to show some extension. Floating cargoes still meet attention, and four have changed hands. Good brown Bohea, new crop, at 25s. 9d., landing weights. Mixed Paraiba and Pernambuco at 24s., landing weights for the United Kingdom; Havannah, No. 9 to 9½ standard, at 26s. 6d.; and fine Pernambuco at 25s. 3d., fully insured, for near continental ports. Refined sugars can hardly be quoted cheaper, but the market is dull and supplies increasing.

COFFEE is held with increased firmness, and 1s. to 1s. 6d. advance has, in several instances, been paid for parcels to complete immediate orders. Native Ceylons have been most in request, at 51s. 6d. to 52s. for good ordinary, and 59s. for picked. A moderate business has been concluded in Plantation kinds. Floating cargoes of foreign are inquired for. One of Santos sold at 49s. for a near port. The quantity of Ceylon afloat for England is 97,740 cwt. Plantation, and 21,156 cwt. Native; against 107,713 cwt. and 35,981 cwt., respectively, at this time last year. The markets throughout the Continent continue on the advance.

TEA.—The advices from China have not appreciably affected the markets. Business has been confined to the public sales, at which some 8,000 packages sold out of 25,000, in catalogue. Some parcels of scented tea went at rather lower prices, but other descriptions without alteration.

RICE.—The week's transactions are confined to 5,000 bags Bengal, at about late rates.

SALTPETRE has declined 6d. to 9d. per cwt., at which only moderate sales have been affected. The Calcutta letters again bring easier prices, and increased sales.

SPICES.—White pepper is cheaper; Penang sold at 8d. and Singapore 7½d. to 8d. Black is firm; Penang sold at 3½d. and 4d. Aleppo in auction held at 4½d. being about current rates. Bengal ginger realizes 16s. 6d. per cwt. Cassia lignea sells with irregularity, first pile at 9s. and 9s. 6d., second 90s., third 86s. per cwt. Cloves and Pimento are unaltered.

HEMP.—Quotations are unaltered, but the markets for both Russian and East India very quiet. Jute is also very unsaleable.

COTTON.—The American advices refer to higher prices, and diminished receipts at the ports, but the markets here are adversely influenced by the unfavourable accounts from India, and both Liverpool and London prices have tended in the buyer's favour, whilst the transactions have been upon a less extensive scale than in the previous week.

DRUGS.—Castor oil has declined ¼d. per lb.; 100 chests camphor, old import, sold at 80s. landing weights.

SHELLAC is again dearer; 92s. 6d. paid for ordinary D.C. orange, and 100s. for better sorts.

DYE.—Spanish indigo at sales went at a partial decline of 3d. on the better sorts. Cochineal is rather cheaper. Safflower firm.

METALS.—The markets continue inactive; but the only alteration in question is a decline in Scotch pig iron to 51s. and 51s. 6d.; and an improvement in spelter from 21½. 12s. 6d. to 21½. 15s. per ton.

OILS.—Linseed is dull of sale at the reduced price of 29l. on the spot. For future delivery no business is mentioned. Rape also offers on lower terms. Refined foreign, 44l.; brown, 40l. 10s.; and English brown, 40l.; Bombay ground nut, 34l.; Madras, 38l. Olive oil is still pressed for sale. Gallipoli at 48l.; Malaga, which is scarce, is held for the same price (48l.); but Gioja and Candia offers at 46l., down to 42l. 10s. for Mogadore. Gallipoli, for early shipment, may be bought at 46l., cost, freight, and insurance; and Toronto at 45l. 10s. Cocoa nut is more saleable at 40l. to 40l. 10s. for Ceylon, and 42l. to 43l. for Cochin. Confirmed advices of a falling-off in shipments at most of the African ports have led to considerable sales of fine Lagos at 44l. to 44l. 5s., and the market closes very firm. Spermin unaltered. American, 100l.; Colonial, 102l.; cod, 35l.

TURPENTINE.—Arrivals of rough are 2,000 barrels, imported by distillers. No sales reported. 11s. the price ex store. Some arrival of spirits from the Continent have lowered the price. American barrels offer at 43s.

TALLOW.—The actual demand for consumption has been very small, though a fair business has been done during the week, in settlements for the month, at 52s. There is no accumulation of home produce, and the stocks of all kinds of tallow and grease are unusually limited throughout the kingdom. The

market closes 52s. 6d. spot, 52s. 6d. all the month, 52s. to 52s. 3d. April-June, and 52s. 3d. October-December; very few sellers in any position. The public sales to day were of no moment. The last account from St. Petersburg brought higher prices, 170 ro. having been paid by Russian speculators, with hand money for August. Town tallow, 54s. 3d. Rough fat, 2s. 10d. Melted stuff, 54s.

RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE.

A SPECIAL general meeting of the Namur and Liege and Mons and Manage Railways Company is called for the 4th of April, at Brussels, to approve the provisional convention entered into with the Northern of France Railway Company, for the construction and working by the latter of the line from Namur to the French frontier, by Dinant.

At the meeting of the Londonderry and Enniskillen Railway Company, a favourable report was presented, showing a slight increase in the traffic of the half-year, compared with the corresponding period of 1857. There was a balance of £6,309 14s. 2d., being more than sufficient for a dividend on the Six per Cent. £10 shares, and also a dividend of 5s. 3d. on the £12 10s. preference shares. The report was adopted, but the proposal of the directors to purchase a steamer for Loch Erne was negatived.

The directors of the Cape Town Railway and Dock Company have intimated that no further calls will be made before May next, but payments in advance of the remaining £8, making together £18, will be received.

The notice from the East India Railway Company of their desire to borrow 1,000,000l. by an issue of debentures having five years to run and bearing 4½ per cent. interest was quickly responded to, the whole amount having been subscribed on Wednesday morning in a few hours.

At the special general meeting of the London and South Western Railway Company to day, an agreement to rent the Epsom and Leatherhead Railway at 2,000l. per annum was confirmed unanimously.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Caledonian Railway Company on Wednesday, a dividend of 5 per cent. was declared on the Leshmahagow stock.

THE PARIS AND LYONS RAILWAY.—The receipts of the Paris to Lyons and Marseilles Railway Company for the months of January and February last greatly exceed the receipts of the corresponding months of last year. This increase is attributed chiefly to the immense quantity of ammunition, provisions, and warlike stores conveyed on account of the Government from Lyons to Marseilles.

ITALIAN LINES.—The commission which had assembled at Milan to determine the spot where the Victor-Emmanuel and Lombardo-Venetian railways are to form their junction has just finished its labours. The station will be at Trecento, on the right bank of the Ticino. The custom-house and international points of discussion have all been got over satisfactorily, and the conventions have been sent to the respective Governments for ratification. Meanwhile, it is believed that the works for the junction of the two railways upon the great Ticino bridge will be finished at the commencement of the month of May.

PORTUGUESE RAILWAYS.—A letter from Lisbon says:—It is, of course, too soon to expect any definitive settlement respecting the railway question. All parties who wish well to this country are anxious that Sir Morton Peto should have the concession, and it may still be regarded as almost a certainty that he will have it, but as the opposition will fight every inch of the ground, and as their party numbers some of the ablest men and the best orators in the House, it is to be feared that great delay will be the consequence. It is said that the Count Thomar is inclined to support Government on this question, and his oratory will always have weight in the Upper House.

JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.

THE annual meeting of the British American Land Company is called for the 28th inst.

A special general meeting of the Electric Power Light and Colour Company is called for the 19th inst., to consider the Liquidator's report, showing the progress which has been made towards winding up the company.

At the annual meeting of the Bank of Australasia the dividend was continued at 6 per cent., and the bonus at 14 per cent., together 20 per cent. per annum, which seemed very satisfactory to the proprietors. Nothing important had occurred in the way of business since the last meeting in December. The state of the colony was now improving. Although the profits of the past year had been diminished from various

causes, they were satisfactory to the directors. The net amount of profit available on this occasion was £160,460 5s. 2d. The first portion of the Victoria Loan had been taken up on favourable terms. After a few observations the report was adopted, the accounts showing a total amount of assets of £4,624,502 9s. 1d., and a balance to the credit of profit and loss, on the 11th October, 1858, of £173,842 18s. 6d.

At the extraordinary general meeting of the Australian Royal Mail Steam Navigation Company, held on Wednesday, the directors' report stated that two vessels remained unsold—viz., the Victoria and Adelaide. The former is on her voyage from the East; and the latter, it is hoped, will be disposed of on favourable terms. The balance in favour of the company is 1,300l., besides the value of the ships. The report was agreed to.

A London prospectus has been issued of the Union Mercantile Steam Company of Lisbon, which commenced operations last year, for the purpose of trading between that capital and the Portuguese settlements on the west coast of Africa, as well with the Azores and Algarve. The company have an annual mail subsidy of 18,000l. from the Portuguese Government, and also received a bonus at starting of 6000l. The capital is fixed at 150,000l., of which the directors and trustees have already subscribed 100,000l., leaving 50,000l. to be offered in London, and which is now required to complete the purchase of additional ships called for by the increasing trade. The persons interested in the undertaking rely that it will aid materially in facilitating the suppression of the slave trade.

The half-yearly general Court of the Bank of England was held on Thursday, Mr. Sheffield Neave, the Governor, presiding. The profits during the past six months have been 610,956l., and the rest now amounts to 3,632,944l. A dividend of 4 per cent., without deduction of income-tax, was declared, leaving the rest at 3,050,824l. No discussion took place.

WESTERN BANK OF SCOTLAND.—Between £20 and £30 per share will be returned to those shareholders who paid in full the calls. Of course those who compromised will not participate in this return. On 'Change, at Glasgow, on Wednesday, Western Bank shares were considered worth £30.—*North British Mail.*

AMERICAN GRAIN.—A letter from Toronto says:—"It is estimated by our best judges that the stock of flour and wheat on hand in the seaports of this continent will barely suffice till the end of July; and if there is nothing more to be expected from the interior, grain must be imported from Europe. There is, however, no means of estimating what may yet come from Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Ohio, all of which great grain states had, it appears, good crops of wheat.

MEDITERRANEAN TELEGRAPH.—Letters received by the Mediterranean Extension Telegraph Company from their agents assume that the existing fracture to the cable between Malta and Cagliari will be found off Trapani, on the coast of Sicily. The damaged portion, when discovered, will have to be taken up and a new piece spliced on, an operation which will probably not be completed for at least five or six weeks to come.

TELEGRAPHS A PART OF OUR POSTAL SYSTEM.—The House of Lords seems disposed to legislate upon telegraphs or, at all events, to take telegrams into their consideration. Various returns have been called for, and the attention of the House has been repeatedly drawn to the desirability of making the Inland and Submarine Telegraphs part and parcel of our postal system. It is thought that greater development of the telegraph system would result from this change than is possible under its existing conditions, while a low and uniform rate of charge would probably take the place of the present high rates.

THE BANKRUPTCY LAW.—A meeting of merchants and other traders took place on Tuesday, Mr. R. W. Crawford, M.P., in the chair, upon the question of the amendment of the law of Bankruptcy. At a meeting in November last a committee was appointed to consider the bills introduced in Parliament by the Lord Chancellor and Lord John Russell. After a careful examination of the provisions of the two Acts the committee are of opinion that the Debtor and Creditor Bill of Lord Chelmsford exhibits many deficiencies, and should be firmly opposed, while they recommend a steady support to Lord John Russell's scheme, which it was stated will receive some important additions. The committee also propose to refer the bill to a select committee, under whose superintendence every proper amendment may be introduced. After a short discussion, in the course of which the evils of the present system were forcibly pointed out by Mr. S. Morley and other speakers, a resolution was carried to present a petition to Parliament, embodying the views of the committee.

THE MINERAL TRADES OF SOUTH WALES.—Both the iron and coal trades, the staple productions of South Wales, show increased firmness, several large orders both for home and foreign consumption having been received. Railway iron continues steady, and various French orders are being supplied, and as the stocks in the hands of the consumers have been reduced to the lowest point they are now being compelled to buy. Steam coals meet with a steady sale at improving rates, and an increasing demand is apparent owing partly to the satisfactory nature of the late experiments. Coal for house consumption is also sold freely, and in the Aberdare valley a move from the recent severe depression is apparent. The revival of trade is affording increased employment, and various improvements and extensions are being carried on at some of the works. The mineral field at Penyarden has been sold to the Dowlass Iron Company.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—At the last weekly meeting the paper read was "On Trade Marks," by Professor Leone Levi. The author pointed out the importance of the British manufacturer continuing to maintain the high character he had gained in the markets of the world, and for this purpose it was necessary not only that no deterioration should take place in the quality of the articles produced by him, but also that no idea should gain currency that such deterioration had taken place. It was, therefore, of the first importance that their marks should never be placed upon goods of an inferior quality; but, unfortunately, though there was no fear of such a suicidal act upon the part of the manufacturer himself, others, in many instances, imitated his trade mark, and thus not only deprived him of the profits due to the merits of his production, but, by selling an inferior article under his name, tended gradually to destroy his commercial reputation. The imitation of a trade mark was illegal in this country, though there were cases in which the law had been evaded, some of which were mentioned. It did not appear, however, that any material alteration in the English law bearing upon this subject was wanted; but in some foreign countries such palpable fraud took place, owing to the imitation of many of our trade marks, that serious loss, both of profit and character, was sustained by the British manufacturer. The country where this might almost be said to have become a system was Prussia, and the author showed various curious instances of the imitation of the marks of Sheffield manufacturers and others by their German imitators, the occasional mistakes in the spelling of English words and names making the imitation even more evident than it would otherwise have been.

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